

# THE ASYLUM

*Quarterly Journal of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society*

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Volume XV, No. 3Summer-Fall, 1997

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“Divine favour has freed me from most human passions, but one insatiable lust remains which hitherto I have been neither able nor willing to master. I can not get enough books. Perhaps I already have more than I need; but it is with books as it is with other things: success in acquisition spurs the desire to find still more. Books indeed have special charm. Gold, silver, gems, purple raiment, a house of marble, a well-tilled field, paintings, a steed with splendid trappings: things such as these give us only a silent and superficial pleasure. Books delight us profoundly, they speak to us, they give us good counsel, they enter into an intimate companionship with us.”



FRANCESCO PETRARCH

*(in a letter written in 1346)*

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## THE ASYLUM

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**N. B. S. Membership:** \$15.00 annual dues in North America, \$20.00 elsewhere. Members receive all issues of the current volume. Requests for membership should be submitted to the Secretary-Treasurer.

## *Presidents Message*

The ANA Convention held in New York reminded me of the key essence of our society: Fellowship; Respect and Encouragement for Researchers/Writers; and Personal Enjoyment from Active Participation in a Hobby. Like Del Bland, Armand Champa, Eric Newman, and others before him, Mr. Denis Loring and his charming wife were kind enough to allow the cognoscenti of numismatic literature to converge at his residence overlooking Central Park. Fine Asian cuisine, conversation, and self-guided tours of the library were the main events of the evening. We all had a wonderful time and thank Denis and his wife for their hospitality.

Building on the theme of fellowship, encouragement, and active participation, your new NBS Board is hard at work FOR YOU. We are actively engaged in several projects which should benefit the organization. We are now preparing a 15-year index to *The Asylum* with the help of fellow NBS member William Malkmus. The index along with other historical articles and information about NBS will represent the Volume XV, No. 4 issue. Members will receive this issue in early February.

The board is updating and clarifying NBS annual awards. The board overwhelmingly endorsed an idea to create a "Best Asylum Article of the Year" award to recognize the contribution of researchers and writers for our central communication source. More information will be available in the Spring issue of *The Asylum*.

The third project underway is to update the organization's by-laws. Mr. Frank Van Zandt is leading this work on behalf of the board. This project will take several months to complete but will provide the organization a more effective means to manage itself. Mr. Van Zandt is using working, effective by-laws from other numismatic organizations as the basis for the update. We will provide you more information in the near future.

While the above projects are underway, read and enjoy the current issue of *The Asylum* prepared by your editor, Mr. G. F. Kolbe. If you have considered sharing your insights, writing an article, or sending a letter to the editor, do it! Your active participation provides the source for others to learn and expand.

## *Report of Current Status of NBS*

Thirty members attended our meeting at the ANA Convention. Our current checking account balance is \$10,491.75 plus a \$2,500.00 CD. At present there are 228 members on the rolls. Lost by death is George Hatie, Detroit, Michigan.

David Hirt, *Secretary-Treasurer*



## Numismatic Books ~ An Adventuresome Pursuit

Alan Luedeking

I am a born collector. By age 7 I already enjoyed displaying my collections every chance I got. Much to my parents' distress, this often meant I would unexpectedly march in and entertain their dinner guests with handsomely laid out boards of bullets in all sizes and shapes, pre-Columbian pottery pieces, and other miscellanea (like stuffed iguana heads and sea shells). One day I bumped into my father's tall dressing stand and was surprised by a shower of small change which rained down on me from on top. As I picked up the coins, I spotted two very different from the rest. Enthralled, I beheld an American Wheat Ear Penny and a 1934 silver quarter. Here was obviously something precious, and so very old! As the only child of American expatriates growing up in Nicaragua at the time, I had never seen American coins before, nor experienced such a strange excitement... I *had* to have them! The thrill of receiving these coins from my father was occasionally repeated in the coming months as my mother gifted me with others. Every dinner guest and friend or acquaintance was soon pestered with inquiries about old coins, and slowly others were added to my collection.

When I was 10, I looked forward to the first Saturday of every month, when I would sneak out of the house and visit a friend, an old peddler who set up every weekend under the big Ceiba tree near my house. I received 50 Centavos allowance every Saturday morning, which I assiduously saved up in order to buy my monthly supply of firecrackers, slingshots, and other forbidden goodies (in gleeful anticipation of the mischief I could wreak in school on Monday morning). One day I asked him whether he had any old coins... Lo and behold, out came a few! What a dilemma! The goodies or the coins? A watershed decision... I was soon in debt with my friend, but ecstatic with my coins.

One Saturday when I was 11, I hopped on a bus with our cook (whose day off it was), and went to Diriomo, her hometown, in the Department of Carazo. I had been saving up my allowance (up to 2 Córdobas a week by then), and with her at my side as guide and "safe conduct," I went door to door asking if anybody had old coins I might purchase. More often than not my heart would leap in anticipation as the señora arose from her rocking chair on the porch and disappeared inside, to return shortly with a small bag or box.

I learned early on the lesson that to acquire what you really wanted you had to take what you didn't; the first few bargaining sessions taught me that it was fatal to cull the few pieces of interest from amongst the rest. The

result was invariably a terrific increase in price for same, or an outright refusal to sell those pieces at all! Having learned this lesson, I stolidly absorbed the junk with the pearls. My biggest problem, going from house to house, was the lightning rapidity with which my purchasing power dwindled to nothing! Today, I am doubly rewarded by the realization that much of what I considered junk then is now some of my greatest numismatic treasure, including rare hacienda tokens and banknotes of Nicaragua that I would otherwise probably never have owned.

In subsequent months and years I often went alone by bus to small towns and villages, deep in the heart of coffee and cattle country, and returned laden with coins, many of them mistakes, but all of them beyond price in terms of fun and adventure. (Today, in the aftermath of the revolution, with the rampant increase in crime and threat of kidnapping, such boldness by an unaccompanied youngster would be madness). Amongst my haul were American half dimes and dimes, the odd two- and three-cent pieces, and many half cents and large cents. I found little in the way of 20th century U. S. coins, however. The vast majority were 19th century pieces, mostly copper, and bust or seated silver. As later research revealed, this was of course to be expected, given the heavy traffic of Americans across Nicaragua, in transit to and from California after 1849. Cornelius Vanderbilt's Nicaragua Transit Company hauled untold numbers of gold-seekers back and forth in those days, many of them free spenders, it seems! The vast majority of the U. S. silver that I found was dated between the mid 1820s and 1870, mostly with O or S mintmarks, since most gold rushers embarked in either New Orleans or New York, and San Francisco. Quite a few British coins were also to be had, since Nicaragua's east coast had been part of the British empire for nearly two centuries.

When I was 13, I got my first after-school part-time job, at a small American-style bookstore (the only one of its kind), which had been opened by my former English teacher at the American school in Nicaragua. There I was first introduced to Reese's peanut butter cups (to the detriment of my teenage complexion), and saw for the very first time A BOOK ABOUT COINS! I hadn't realized such an animal existed! Today, as I turn its ragged, dog-eared pages I still feel vestiges of the thrilling excitement that it produced in me, my first numismatic book. "It" was Norman Stack's 1972 *U. S. Coins of Value* (a Dell paperback). It taught me all I ever needed to know about mintmarks, varieties, rarity, grading, and proper handling. It was my "Red Book" (literally) for many years! The excitement of that first night back at home, looking up my large cents, half cents and silver was tremendous. I got to dreaming about possible finds that might await me, but as much as I scoured the countryside, I never could find that 1793 Chain Cent which Stack's offered unhesitatingly to buy for \$550 in Fine condition!

My numismatic collecting specialty, not surprisingly, was (and still is) Nicaragua. Having discovered the existence of a book on American coins, I forthwith began my search for numismatic books on Nicaragua, and discovered with surprise that there was almost nothing! One favorite was Robert Lamb's pioneering pamphlet, *Checklist of the Coins of Nicaragua* (1964), which even pictured some tokens! I was also fortunate to obtain the very scarce *Aspectos Históricos de la Moneda en Nicaragua* and *Anexos* volumes, edited by Luis Cuadra Cea for the central bank of Nicaragua in 1963, as well as Prof. Ildefonso Palma Martínez's *Moneda y Bancos en Nicaragua*, (Managua, 1954), which are of the essence for numismatic research. My pursuit of numismatic reference material on Nicaragua quickly expanded to include Central America, and sure enough, soon any Latin American numismatic book became of interest to me... I had become a numismatic bibliomaniac!

Now living back in the States again, my hunt for numismatic books began in earnest, and it wasn't long before the name George Kolbe kept popping up. My first list from this gentleman really opened my eyes to the incredible world of numismatic books, and my wallet has never since recovered from the impact of this acquaintance! Though there have been some very long dry spells in between my purchases from George, he has never once stopped sending me his lists. The same goes for Stack's of New York and a few others. Unquestionably, this generous practice is only one small ingredient in the secret of these firms' long-lasting success. It is interesting to me to note how few are the dealers who realize that business success is built upon long term customer relationships, and a commitment to customer satisfaction. Many dealers will drop an inactive customer from their mailing list like a hot potato after just six months or one year, yet I have no doubt that those that persevere in what is seemingly a losing relationship eventually reap the reward of a major sale or consignment which makes up for the dross.

Numismatic books, of course, are first and foremost a tool for research. I will illustrate one of the most useful aspects of this immediately: I purchased at auction many years ago an insignificant maverick which only years later I accidentally discovered was the plate coin in the Gutttag catalog, number 4859. Now suddenly this enigmatic piece took on a far greater historical significance, and I wonder, does anybody else see the palm tree and guillotine as I do? Can anyone shed any light on this piece? This is one advantage of a good numismatic book — with its help a plea for information suddenly reaches much further and wider. Another incident illustrates what the joy of owning an original edition can be: I purchased at auction a fairly scarce 1747 1 real proclamation piece of Guatemala in beautiful condition. Once home, I looked up the coin in my Medina reprint and was



disappointed with the illustration, which happens to be very dark for this coin. So I pulled out my original edition of 1917 (see #MNR-8 in Carling Gresham's list of José Toribio Medina's works in *The Asylum*, Spring/Summer, 1986), and was shocked to discover that my coin was the actual plate piece (#26 under Ferdinand VI)! Oh the joy of a good illustration in an original edition!

The pursuit of numismatic books has also brought me a few great friends and adventures. One such occurred with Jorge Ortiz-Murias, of San Juan, Puerto Rico, whose incredible library of Latin American material was sold by Kolbe in December of 1996 (Kolbe/Spink Sale 15), in what I consider a landmark reference sale of the genre, (not to mention the astonishing selection of antiquarian works this auction also contained). One night in San Juan, as we emerged from his library after hours of my awed perusing, Jorge and I were suddenly accosted by two individuals with guns, who offered us a simple choice: "La chamba o el culo!" ("Your money or your ass!"). We hastened to hoist our hands high, whereupon they emptied our pockets, threw our keys into the street and took Jorge's expensive watch. In my hand was a bag with two rare auction catalogs and some books, which, to my inner glee they disdained, making a face. Then they bade us turn around and walk away slowly. I still remember vividly the greatly heightened clarity of my senses and the tension in willing my ears to twist backwards in an effort to hear the hammer cock. I was certain we were about to be shot in the back. Happily, they hopped back into their stolen car and sped away. We heaved sighs of relief and proceeded to celebrate our having come off lightly. (Jorge even recovered his watch in the black market a week later!)

I have enjoyed many interesting trades with Jorge, including a particularly good one for me, where I traded him Tomás Soley-Guell's 1926 work on the coinage and banking history of Costa Rica for an original edition of one of Medina's works! However, I have made up for it with some not-so-sagacious trades, like giving up Jacques Schulman's original (and unique) bid book for part 2 of the legendary Oscar Salbach sale of 1911 (hand priced and with buyer's names throughout), for other less worthy material! Regrettably, I was unable to re-acquire this item, as I was outbid for it in the aforementioned Kolbe sale of his library. It went for a price worthy of its importance, much more than what I originally paid in Kolbe/Spink Sale 8.

In assembling a good library one takes on an obligation to care for and preserve it. This was brought home to me the night of August 24th, 1992, when Hurricane Andrew slammed into Miami. Not having been exposed to a hurricane before, and being relatively far inland, I failed to take the threat of it very seriously. As the night advanced, and the wind increased, I reminisced about the earthquake and civil war I had survived, when sud-



denly the realization dawned on me that I might be in imminent peril of losing my life — the rending disappearance of part of my roof and the sound of the big trees in my yard flying away like broken matchsticks being quick convincers. In sudden great haste I bethought to secure what little I could carry and cocoon myself inside my old four-wheel drive in the garage. With my wife away at the time, and my children as yet unborn, what to reach for first wasn't so difficult a decision: my homeowner's policy and my books! But which ones? So many and time so short! With ears popping from the pressure changes, my first grab was for an 1856 hand-painted silk and pigskin map of Nicaragua, commissioned by William Walker.

In hindsight, I don't doubt I made some wrong decisions, but it was fun reading by dome light Henry Ramsden's 1904 work on the sugar estate tokens of Cuba, hand-inscribed to Howland Wood, (with its unique additional sheet of token rubbings tipped in), along with some of José Toribio Medina's rarer works. Adolfo Herrera's original edition on proclamations of the Spanish empire also made it, as did a first edition of E. G. Squier's 1856 book on Nicaragua. I must admit, however, that concentration was difficult while hearing large chunks of my home blow away around me.

Fortunately, I have since had much more time to think about the "Noah's Ark list," since I'm still here and so is my library — the one part of my house that survived the onslaught of Andrew unscathed... God must have an appreciation for numismatic books too!

## BACK ISSUES OF THE ASYLUM FOR SALE

Vol. 2	Nos. 1 & 2	Vol. 9	Nos. 1, 2, 3, & 4
Vol. 3	Nos. 1, 2, & 3-4	Vol. 10	No. 1
Vol. 4	Nos. 1, 3, & 4	Vol. 11	Nos. 1, 2, 3, & 4
Vol. 5	Nos. 1, 2, 3, & 4	Vol. 12	Nos. 2, 3, & 4
Vol. 6	Nos. 1, 2, 3, & 4	Vol. 13	Nos. 1, 2, 3, & 4
Vol. 7	Nos. 1, 2, 3, & 4	Vol. 14	Nos. 1, & 2-4
Vol. 8	Nos. 1, 2, 3, & 4	Vol. 15	No. 1 & 2

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## Ard W. Browning Through a 1920 Looking Glass

Carl Herkowitz, NBS, NLG, ANA

Atop the literary pantheon of Brownings, the halls of Robert, Elizabeth Barrett, and our own Ard W., the former pair are universally celebrated and specifically well known, while the latter, the phantomlike Ard, is specifically celebrated yet essentially unknown. Unknown as is a whisper wrought in the wind, a veiled presence, a largely invisible giant... "the author, the Edison of early quarters—this enlightener, this benefactor, this determining factor, about whose life, oddly enough, so little is now known."<sup>1</sup>

Browning revolutionized the 1881 Haseltine Type Table, leaving forever his indelible imprint, literally the "B" initial, in reorganizing his specialty. All in the book. That meticulously researched wellspring, *The Early Quarter Dollars of the United States*. A masterwork, lauded by Walter Breen as "the most perfect numismatic book written on the first try."<sup>2</sup> The original, "publisher Wayte Raymond's definitive, illuminating 1925 edition, the debut, a classmate to Fitzgerald's 'The Great Gatsby' of the same year."<sup>3</sup>

"Who knows the numismatic biography of Ard Browning, whose book on early quarters, published in 1925, reflected great scholarship, despite his being unknown (presumably) in the hobby before that time."<sup>4</sup> So queried Q. David Bowers in the September 15, 1997 issue of *Coin World*. And over the years many others have similarly pondered any discernible aspects of Browning's mysterious life. Who was he indeed, or could his very name, especially that rustic "Ard W." appellation, have been an imaginative *non de plume*, his existence itself a figment, a fanciful adornment, from the fertile mind of the immortal Raymond? Peculiarities being so akin to the human estate, after all, sometimes accompany greatness. But not in this case — the great Wayte did publish the inspired work, the lone cry, of the real Ard W. Browning.

Historical bits and pieces -evidences, enticements - lend to the Browning lore, including known items such as a P. O. Box number in Central Islip, Long Island, New York; his presence in the September 1925 A. N. A. Membership List; membership in the New York Numismatic Club dating before 1917 (his conspicuous absence at club meetings is confirmed in the 1917 Year Book, and he "no-showed" that year's annual banquet); a signed copy of *Early Quarter Dollars*; an unsigned inventory book recording his numismatic holdings, and a residential address or two around New York City. While Ard W. hardly looked to hobnob, he nonetheless was known (if not present) to the *crème de la crème* of the New York and national numismatic scene of his day. Browning was an ultimately private person with an abiding devotion to the immutable call of the Goddess Numisma and her

*Arduous* research. A huge contributor, of imperishable spirit — he would naturally emerge in one way, even if not the other!

The biographically elusive Ard W. Browning quite incidentally did leave behind a window to his personal past, some fresh information, a passage-way to possibilities for further research. From impossible-impassable-to possible! We now know that the Bust Quarter compiler/author/wizard, the improbable B-1, B-2 et al., source man of several decades standing, this phantom phenom, was born in 1871 or the first few days of 1872, being 48 years of age as of his last birthday prior to the 1920 national census, the "Fourteenth Census of the United States: 1920 - Population." Looking back to Central Islip, New York, my wife Barbara and I were most fortunate, barely persevering to find the truly obscure census sheet and Soundex card, hours into our methodical perusal of a sea of migraine-inducing, near-blinding, microfilm—microfilm, microfiche—whatever these tortuous early rolls are called! In the Detroit Main Public Library, Burton Historical section, we scanned a plethora of small towns, villages and hamlets in New York state before we finally arrived at our El Dorado, found our Livingstone, among the sheets, surprisingly numerous for the relatively small community of Central Islip. There it was, in an additional census of the resident employees of a major area facility, a proverbial "needle in a haystack." There, lightning captured in a jar sublimely appeared: "Browning, Ard. W." written six names up from the bottom of the 44-name discovery document, a 1920 census sheet for employee residents of that particular institution, Central Islip State Hospital. Yes, the ever-intriguing Ard W. Browning resided where he worked, at the now former state mental institution in Central Islip, New York! Enter P. O. Box 539.

The numerous census sheets filled with names of both patients and employees indicate that it was a large hospital. No, he wasn't an attendant, as were the majority of his co-workers, Ard W., who so specially expressed himself through study and language, was, fittingly, employed there as a stenographer (hospital code # 999). Written communications were central to his avocation; blessed must have been Central Islip to have him so ideally placed in that respect! Still, a 1920 mental hospital, or insane asylum in the vernacular of the day, with basic custodial care as the rule, was an unusually challenging work environment to say the least, even on the chance that he may have been stationed in a separate building or annex to the vast patient population.

At 48 years of age, Browning was single as of January 11, 1920. Had he been married previously, or did he marry later in life? The State of Illinois was both the Land of Lincoln and the birthplace of Ard W. Browning, while his mother was originally from Pennsylvania and his father was native to Ohio. A birth certificate is obviously in repose, awaiting discovery, though



Illinois traces birth certificates only back to 1916 without knowledge of the county of birth (there are over 100 counties), and furthermore, the seeker must be related to or legally associated with the subject — Browning must have specifically chosen Illinois! He also selected Central Islip State Hospital, where, despite exhaustive effort, the current depository of its records, Pilgrim Center, could uncover no remaining employee record for Browning (oh, how I savored the prospect of a photograph!). And he is absent from any social security records present on the mega-strong computer at the Library of Michigan in Lansing. The family is not recorded in the Illinois Soundex (census cards) for 1880, and had apparently left the state while Ard was busy learning penmanship. He learned well and an ironic, fairly comical, understatement reassures us that he could indeed read, write and speak English, accomplishments apparently not shared by a large number of his co-workers who were first generation immigrants.

B655

NEW YORK

Browning Ard W

(INDIVIDUAL)

VOL. 378 E.D. 128

SHEET 24 LINE 39

W

(COLOR)

48

(AGE)

Illinois

(BIRTHPLACE)

(CITIZENSHIP)

Suffolk

(COUNTY)

Central Islip

(CITY)

(STREET)

(HOUSE NO.)

ENUMERATED WITH Central Islip State Hospital

RELATIONSHIP TO ABOVE Employee

REMARKS

1920 CENSUS-INDEX  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

A-3

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 11-11871

In his "Introduction to the Revised Edition" of *Early Quarter Dollars*, Walter Breen wrote of Browning that "As of 1922, he knew all the varieties in his 1925 book except 1804 B-2, 1834 B-5, 1836 B-3 & 4.<sup>5</sup> Hence it seems chronologically that the work was at least partially accomplished, and very likely completed, in residence on the hospital grounds. Privately published copies, small in number, were then gradually sold and distributed (advertisements appeared in *The Numismatist* as late as 1929) to fellow collectors and dealers, primarily by Raymond, and perhaps a few by the absentee author himself. A single known copy signed and inscribed by the author exists in the Dan Hamelberg Library, reading "To B. Max Mehl, Fort Worth, Texas —with kind regards, Ard W. Browning, Central Islip, L. I., N. Y., Sept. 18, 1926."<sup>6</sup>

While the groundbreaking 1925 edition is an extreme rarity, the enigmatic author, the helmsman, a full 126 years along, has somehow remained an even much greater rarity (it could well be said unique!) to this day. Was Browning understandably self-conscious, even reclusive, while pursuing his avocations as a resident employee at a state hospital in that long past era? Bear in mind that the 1920s were effectively the Middle Ages in the psychiatric field of caregiving and that Ard was all the while innovatively participating in his beloved hobby endeavors. How many among us nowadays might keep "secrets" in our own lives? As his earlier years were shrouded, inadvertently or otherwise, and for whatever possible reason, then from the time of the January 11, 1920 census to the September 18, 1926 book inscription and beyond, Browning coordinated a fascinating dual life, "the stuff of dreams" and film scripts, at the hospital through the 1920s. As certainly legendary was his book, so was the man, this noble numismatic Cyrano de Begerac, this Dr. Richard Kimble of a different circumstance!

Was Ard W. Browning still employed at Central Islip State Hospital as of 1930? Stay tuned. Census information sheets legally enter the public domain only after a period of 72 years; so the answer will readily be ours in the year 2002—less than five years and counting! The 1920 sheets have likewise been available since 1992. Browning was not employed at the hospital as of 1910.

"The coins shown on the Plates are from the writer's collection, except a few pieces, which could not be secured. In this connection the writer is indebted to the kindness and generosity of Mr. C. J. Detwiller who volunteered to place the coins needed in the collection to be photographed, thus enabling the Plates to show every date, together with every variety known. The writer wishes to thank the various dealers and collectors who have offered suggestions which have been of valuable assistance in making a new classification of these coins."<sup>7</sup> So concluded Browning in his introduction to *Early Quarter Dollars*. Thusly, this lifelong private person acknowledged his peers at the commencement of his opus - "the passing along of his genes" - seemingly the defining moment of his life, and clearly a time of truth. So then, what of his own early quarter dollars (ex Colonel E. H. R. Green Collection), the bulk of "the coins shown on the plates," the yet-to-surface "Browning Collection." Will it eventually show up? Well, why should it. What else has surfaced, what hard-and-fast information of absolute certainty has he left behind? Until the indisputable census sheet and Soundex card introduced here, Ard W. Browning, true to form, was substantively showing up *in name* at about an even keel with the renowned Judge Crater, who vanished in 1925, never more to be seen, or the lost continent of Atlantis, of which there has actually been more evidence than of the judge! (Come to think of it, perhaps the late judge went out one night

to secure a Deluxe Interleaved copy of the book, and disappeared! Anti-quarian skullduggery?).

A still intact Browning collection plays best as a myth, a fond bit of whimsy. Consistent with his thorough and anonymous nature, the coins likely were discreetly dispersed via trusted contemporaries, trusts of the "old school" that have well stood the test of time, of passing generations. In a hypothetical sale, though, a fun event, *Early Quarter Dollars*, his *chef d'oeuvre*, will serve as the CATALOGUE (and please, no biographical sketch!), and the superlative linen-backed photographic plates, his COLLECTION made eternal, and deeded by the COLLECTOR as a gift to us all: NUMISMAGIC, by Browning.

And now a simple census sheet - the enumeration of a man, a time, and a place - enlivens the quest and thickens the plot. Arising to a certain immortality, outdistancing a fate of anonymity with an enduring and endearing contribution - a great book, the first folio Browning, an offering from the soul - Ard W. Browning would have been embraced by the illustrious Robert and Elizabeth Barrett as one of the same heart, as one of their own.

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3. Carl Herkowitz, *Ibid.*, p. 386.
4. Q. David Bowers, *Coin World*, September 15, 1997.
5. Walter Breen, *The Early Quarter Dollars of the United States*, Revised Edition; Brown-ing/Breen, p. 7; published by Bowers and Merena Gallery, Inc., 1992.
6. Signed inscription in Dan Hamelberg Library copy of 1925 *Early Quarter Dollars*. With appreciation to fellow hobbyist Fred Lake, who kindly provided me with the exact inscription.
7. Ard W. Browning, from the introduction to *Early Quarter Dollars of the United States*, published by Wayte Raymond, 1925.

\* With appreciation to my friend, Janet Whitson, curator of the Burton Historical section, Detroit Main Public Library, for her valuable assistance.

#### DEDICATION

*To the forever living memories of Aunt Ki Ki, Betty Lederman, Caren Tebo, Arnie Kranse, Jerry Math, Dick Donalme, Donnie Leib -- gone with 1997 -- seven of the very best, All dear worthies for the song, "Starry, Starry Night." Love. Amen.*



## *The Printer's Devil ~ The 8th Annual Shammy Awards*

Joel J. Orosz, NLG

It's crazy eight time, gentle readers—the eighth time that this space has been occupied by the “Shammies,” celebrating excellence in the employment of hyperbole to increase sales. Once again, your columnist is the sole judge for these coveted awards. This year, as for the previous three years, there will be a special section of the Shammies devoted to numismatic bloopers. So de-suspend your disbelief: The 8th edition of the Shammies is about to begin!

The “irreplaceable except for nineteen others” award goes to Jay Parrino of The Mint, for claiming that an 1864 proof small motto 2 cent piece, mint-age 20, is “irreplaceable.” *Coin World (CW), May 13, 1996, p. 31.*

The “but if they've been dipped, the holder won't tell you” award goes to David Hall, for stating “and rare coins (at least if they are in P.C.G.S. holders) don't lie.” *CW, November 1, 1995, p. 51.*

The “almost summer, or almost deals?” award goes to John Paul Sarosi, Inc. for heading an offering “It's finally almost summer deals.” *CW, May 13, 1996, p. 41.*

The “trash the competition” award goes to *Numismatic News*, for the following statement: “Like the grinch that stole Christmas, actions by *Coin World*, a weekly hobby periodical caused a specimen of the new \$100 Federal Reserve Note to be yanked from an educational exhibit...” Judge's note: The article in the *News* later admits that *Coin World* did nothing inappropriate: They had merely followed up on a faxed press release that they had received, thus inadvertently triggering the government reaction. *Numismatic News (NN), January 9, 1996, p.1.*

The “spelig bea champp” goes to double winner Jay Parrino for talking of the “highly reflective fields that distinguish (*sic*) this gem specimen”, and closing the ad with this sentence: “Amazing in every respect and worth (*sic*) of the finest colinet (*sic*).” *NN, January 23, 1996, p. 21.*

The “most amazing geological-numismatic event of the year” award goes to Ken Pines' Coast-to-Coast Coins for their remarkable observation that, in their vault, “Coins seem to be literally growing from the walls...” Judge's note: This should especially intrigue numismatic spelunkers!

*CW, January 22, 1996, p. 4.*

The “missed his ‘Q’” award goes to triple winner Jay Parrino, who offered “Dave’s top ten reasons you need to do business with Jay Parrino’s The Mint L.L.C.” Judge’s note: Aficionados of late-night television will recognize the allusion to David Letterman, but numismatists might mistakenly take this as an endorsement from an entirely different “Dave.”

*CW, July 15, 1996, p. 54.*

The “who is they, or who are he?” award goes to Spectrum Numismatics, for the following headline: “Who is the King of Cash and what can they do for you?” Judge’s note: It is obvious that they can do nothing to teach us about subject-verb agreement.

*NN, May 14, 1996, p.25.*

The “world of difference” award goes to Paul Sims, Inc., for advertising a “high quality walking liberty half deal” that is described as ranging in grade from “choice about uncirculated to borderline uncirculated.”

*CW, May 6, 1996, p.27.*

The “really, really bad timing” award goes to the Professional Coin Grading Service, for taking a full-page ad lauding the merits of slabbing coins in the July 8, 1996 edition of *Coin World*. Among the headlines from that same issue of *Coin World* were: “How Safe Are Slabs?” (p.1); “Slabs Provide No Guarantee Against Toning of White Coins” (p. 3); “Surprises May Await Slab Owners” (p. 10); and “Ultrasonic Seal Is Not Airtight” (p. 11).

*CW, July 8, 1997, p. 61.*

The “we have discovered the fine-70 grade” award goes to double winner Paul Sims, Inc. for offering “defect-free quality Lincoln cents in fine, very fine, and bold XF.” Judge’s note: The same ad also offers the “1922-P cent.” Imagine what this will do to the value of 1922 No D cents!

*CW, August 26, 1996, p. 18.*

The “we know the contents of bags we haven’t searched” award goes to L & C Coins, for offering bags of “unsearched” Lincoln cents, of which they promise “there will be a few Memorials, lots of pre-1940 Wheats, lots of ‘S’ Mint Wheats, and the majority will be Wheat cents 1940-1948.” Judge’s note: Can they also describe the plots of books that they have never read?

*CW, August 26, 1996, p.23.*

The “what a remarkable coincidence” award goes to double winner David Hall, who promised to reveal “the rare coin market’s ten best bets...” and miraculously, each and every one of these ten best bets happen to be in his inventory! Judge’s note: In his description of the very first of these “sure things,” Mr. Hall states: “This pre-Civil War issue simply wasn’t saved in

any significant quantity. In Mint State the only time I've ever seen a quantity was in 1975..." In summary, then, this issue simply wasn't saved in any significant quantity except for the significant quantities that were in fact saved.

*CW, December 4, 1995, p.19.*

The "then why isn't it MS-70?" award goes to triple winner Jay Parrino, for describing as "perfect" a proof-66 1859 Indian cent.

*CW, December 4, 1995, p. 51.*

The "move over, S. Hudson Chapman" award goes to PockeTime, which hyped their watches with dials featuring reproductions of U. S. coinage by saying that their technology produces "full color likenesses that are far superior to those found in reference books or auction catalogues."

*CW, December 11, 1995, p. 19.*

The "free—For 77 dollars" award goes to triple winner David Hall, who heads his ad: "Free Gem Quality P.C.G.S. MS-66 Coin Valued at Nearly \$50.00." The fine print tells you that you must shell out \$77.00 to subscribe to Mr. Hall's newsletter in order to get the "free" coin.

*CW, December 11, 1995, p. 17.*

The "absolute best except for three better grades" award goes to G & F Coin Galleries for describing MS-67 1995 one cent double dies as "the ultimate in quality." Judge's note: If this is true, then what is an MS-68? The penultimate in quality?

*CW, December 11, 1995, p. 41.*

The "not all that glitters is gold" award goes to the Washington Mint, LLC for shilling the "coin" they boldly headline as the "1996 Golden Eagle," weight one-half pound, for the eye-popping price of \$149.00. The fine print, however, tells us that this item is "individually struck from PURE silver," and is plated with gold. Judge's note: Have you ever heard of a coin or token that wasn't individually struck? And why buy \$40 of silver for \$149?

*Newsweek, March 18, 1996, p. 47.*

The "most unintentionally apt headline of the year" award goes to P.C.G.S., for heading an ad "...How One Fairy Tale Came True." The fine print asks "how would you like to find some way where you didn't have to look at every coin three times to make certain it hadn't been repaired or retoned?" Judge's note: It was later in this same year that it was revealed that major grading services have, upon occasion, "dipped" coins to make them more attractive, then slabbed the coins without mentioning the dipping.

*CW, January 29, 1996, p.49.*



The “repetitiously redundant” award goes to quadruple winner David Hall for using variations of the word “rare” ten times in his description of a single coin. Editor’s comment: Count ‘em if you can! 1. This coin is rare as a type coin. 2. They are much rarer in all grades than the later...types. 3. In gem condition, they are ultra-rare. 4. They are so rare that prices can reach extraordinary levels... 5. But the 1853 “no arrows” is not just a rare type coin. 6. It is also an incredibly rare date. 7. Today, survivors are rarities in all grades. 8. This is an ultra-rare type coin... 9. ...a semi-unique example of an ultra-rare date. 10. ...this rarity is also a spectacular value. Judge’s note: We cannot be certain, but in his subtle, understated style, Mr. Hall appears to be hinting that this coin is scarce! CW, January 29, 1996, p.54.

The “most disingenuous disclaimer” award goes to *The Forecaster*, for saying “Now I don’t want to overemphasize *Forecaster Money Letter* 1996 *Confidential Report No. 2*, but it could mean multi-\$100s or 1000s to you during 1996...” The same ad also promises: “Discover the four magic words that instantly grasp their [clerks at airlines, hotels, and car-rental agencies] full attention!” Judge’s note: We already know the four magic words. They are: “Here’s my credit card.” NN, January 30, 1996, p.12.

The “just what we need, another adjectival grade” award goes to quadruple winner Jay Parrino for hawking an 1894 proof double eagle with the following words: “Shocking gem proof \$20.” Judge’s note: If shocking gem proof equates to PR-66, then perhaps revolting gem proof equates to PR-65; horrifying gem proof equates to PR-64, and so on.

NN, January 30, 1996, p. 39.

The “I’d rather be bezeled than bored” award goes to Dix and Webb, for describing lot 345 of their sale of February 21, 1996 as follows: “Rather worn but does not appear to have been mounted, with two small pin holes above the crown on the reverse...normally a rare coin, very rare in this state of preservation.” Judge’s note: Yes, quite rare—most holed specimens have but one puncture! Judge’s note: Thanks to NBS member Q. David Bowers for bringing this to our attention.

The “hit the dirt” award goes to double winner G & F Coin Galleries, for their timely warning: “the market appears ready to explode.” Judge’s note: Thanks for preventing shrapnel wounds!

The “they’re selling like hotcakes—really” award goes to David Vogel, for the following headline: “It seems incredible that I can offer my mastermind rare coin investment guide that originally was best-seller at \$129 at

the close-out price of only \$24.95 post paid." This is precisely the same ad from the November 8, 1994 edition of *Numismatic News* that won a Shammy two years ago. *CW, February 5, 1996, p. 30.*

The "I never met a superlative I didn't like" award goes to quintuple winner (an all-time record for a single year's Shammies Awards) Jay Parrino, who modestly describes his wares (in a single ad), as "the ultimate chain cent; the ultimate U. S. dime, legendary; the ultimate 1799 draped bust cent, legendary; shocking; monstrous; an indescribable MS-68 wreath cent; mind-blowing; and the most important coin in the world." Judge's note: Mr. Parrino is probably the least understated dealer in the world!

*NN, February 20, 1996, p. 31.*

The "English as she is grammared and speledd" award goes to Pinnacle Rarities for touting one coin as "undoubtably" (*sic*) rare with "phenominal" (*sic*) eye appeal, while offering a complete peace dollars collection formed "at a time when the prices for rare date peace dollars was (*sic*) extremely high..."

*CW, February 5, 1996, p. 33.*

The "100% original—except for the corrosion" award goes to triple winner Paul Sims, for peddling an 1804 large cent described as "Bold XF/AU (light corrosion)." Its corroded surfaces notwithstanding, according to Sims, "the coin is 100% original..."

*NN, January 16, 1996, p. 8.*

*And now for a collection of unintentionally hilarious numismatic bloopers:*

The "he's a really old monarch" award goes to the headline writer for *Coin World* who headed an article thus: "King Marks Millennium at Norway Mint."

*CW, November 6, 1995, p. 64.*

The "to forgiveness is divine" award goes to another *Coin World* headline scribe, who composed the following banner: "To Error Is Human."

*CW, May 13, 1996, p. 1.*

The "as opposed to starting with them last?" award goes to Edward's, for sharing the sage advice: "Start with Edwards first." *CW, May 13, 1996, p. 34.*

The "most unintentionally disgusting headline of the year" award goes to the *Coin World* editor who passed (as it were) the following header: "El Salvador Scraps 'Dollarization' in Favor of Local Colon Currency." Judge's note: This should eliminate many problems. *CW, May 13, 1996, p. 42.*

The “those pesky homonyms” award goes to the *Coin World* headline writer who came up with this gem: “Eric P. Newman Honored Guest at ANA Planned Feat (*sic*).” Judge’s note: I wonder if they will fete Eric for his remarkable feats?  
*CW, May 13, 1996, p. 72.*

The “at least it didn’t say Spring whizzing” award goes to John Paul Sarosi, for heading a full-page ad “Spring Cleaning Specials.”  
*CW, April 29, 1996, p. 39.*

The “homonyms faze this headline writer” award goes to the *Numismatic News* editor who let slip the following header: “Cold Doesn’t Phase (*sic*) This Traveling Man.”  
*NN, March 9, 1996, p. 22.*

The “tragic error at P.C.G.S.” award goes to *Numismatic News* for its headline “Eliasberg Slabbed.” Judge’s note: Before anyone sends sympathy cards, the headline referred to a 1793 chain cent from the Eliasberg collection.  
*NN, July 16, 1997, p. 1.*

The “most unlikely sentiment of the year” award goes to the *Coin World* headline writer who concocted this gem, on the subject of the Eliasberg collection sale: “Applauding the Clapps.”  
*CW, April 29, 1996, p. 60.*

The “we’re too busy making it to count it” award goes to the United States Mint, for inadvertently charging \$20.50 to a Virginia collector named James G. Clarke for a bag of 2,000 Susan B. Anthony dollars—the going rate for which was \$2,050—and then balking at accepting Mr. Clarke’s money when he reported the error.  
*CW, January 15, 1996, p. 1.*

The “numismatic literature goes ape” award goes to NBS co-founder and editor of *The Asylum*, George Frederick Kolbe, for a listing of his past clients which included “the Chase Manhattan Monkey Museum.” Judge’s note: Our thanks to George for sending a copy of the ad, with the inscription “I’m turning myself in.”  
*NN, January 7, 1997, p. 65.*

The “no wonder space is a vacuum” award goes to Harold Thomas, for listing one lot in his second mail bid sale as a publication by “Vintage Succions.”  
*Harold Thomas, Mail Bid Sale 2, October 31, 1995, lot 259.*

The “David Hall award for extraordinary achievement” goes not to David Hall (surprise!) but to Dmitry Markov Coins & Medals. In his sale of September, 1996, Mr. Markov, in the space of a mere twenty-five lot descriptions, set a new American malaprop record. A lot-by-lot accounting



follows:

Lot 427: "Modern black leather with marble paper." Judge's note: The paper is heavy, but durable.

Lot 430: "Ones folded." Judge's note: The good news: there are apparently bank notes inside. The bad news: they are no longer crisp uncirculated.

Lot 432: "Errata shit attached. Original gray somewhat dirty card cover." Judge's note: No wonder the cover is dirty!

Lot 441: "Dust clothes." Judge's note: What, no tux?

Lot 443: "Some lives are professionally restored." Judge's note: Only in Hollywood and Washington, DC!

Lot 452: "Attractively bound in later cherry-red lather." Judge's note: An attractive binding, but very fragile! Thanks to George Frederick Kolbe for finding this priceless piece!

Finally, this non-numismatic, but too-good-to-ignore slip wins the "crotchety typo" award: "13. Knight, Richard Payne, Esq. *A Discourse on the Worship of Priapus and its Connection with the Mystic Theology of the Ancients*. London, 1894 limited ed. #19/25 Large Paper issue 4to. Over 40 plates. Professionally rebound in black pebble groin cloth."

*Dad's Old Bookstore AB Bookman's Weekly, January 20, 1997, p. 196.*

That is the last "boner" for 1997. Join us again in 1998 when the 9th annual Shammies celebrates the best of the worst in numismatic advertising.

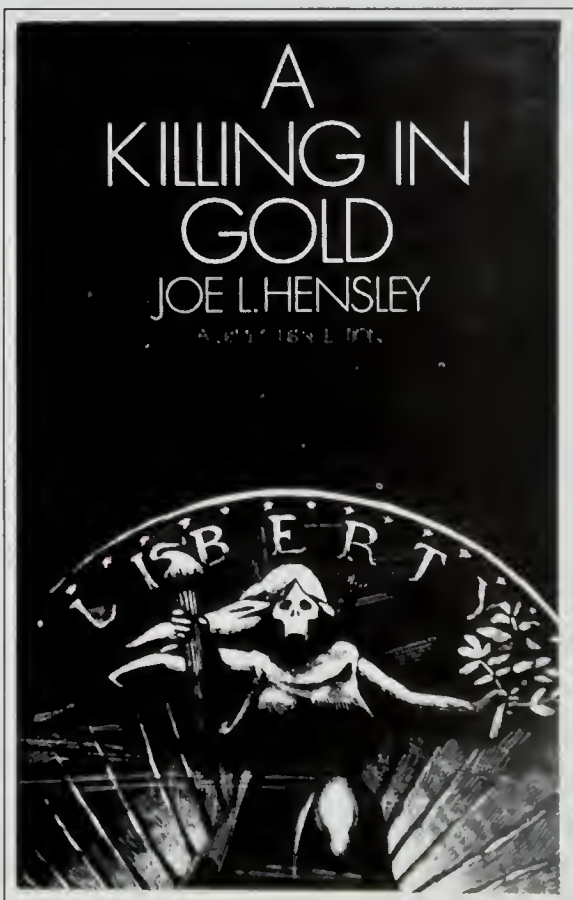
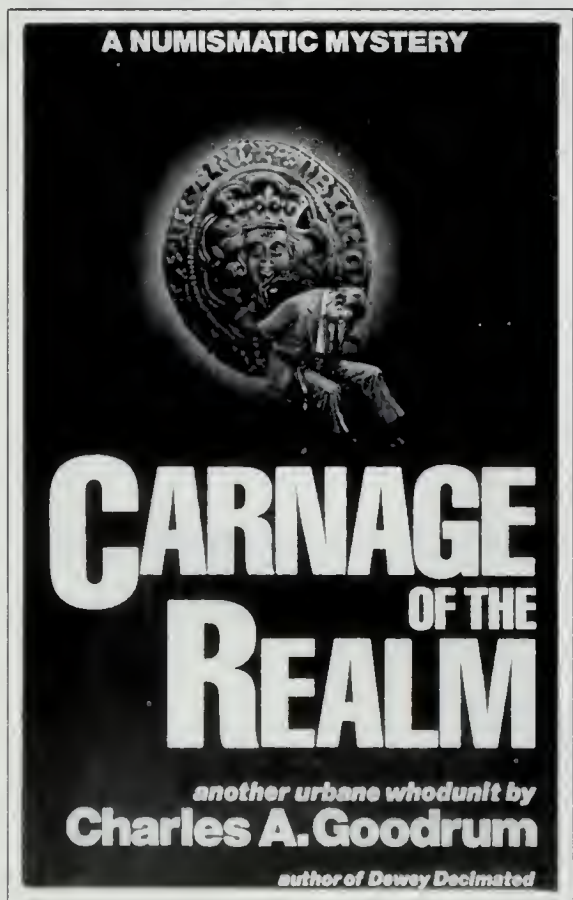
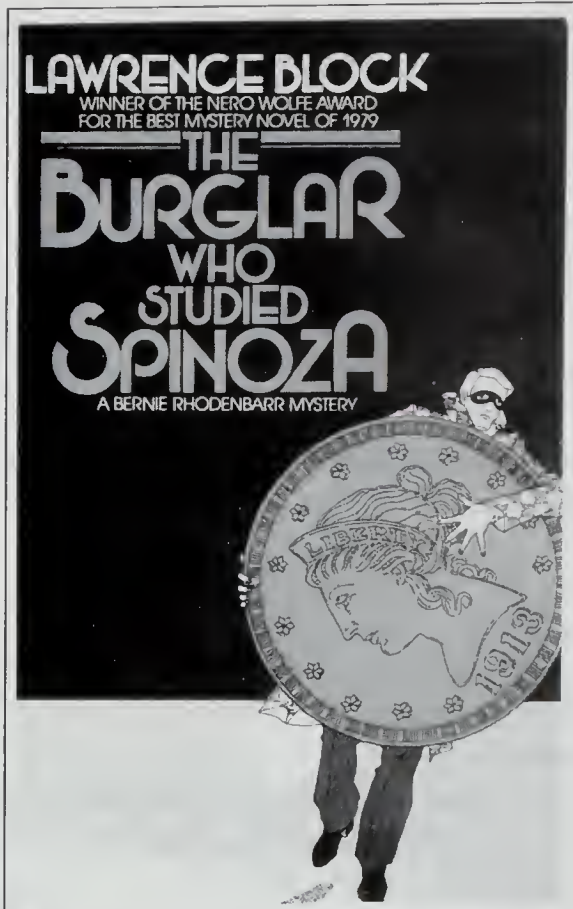
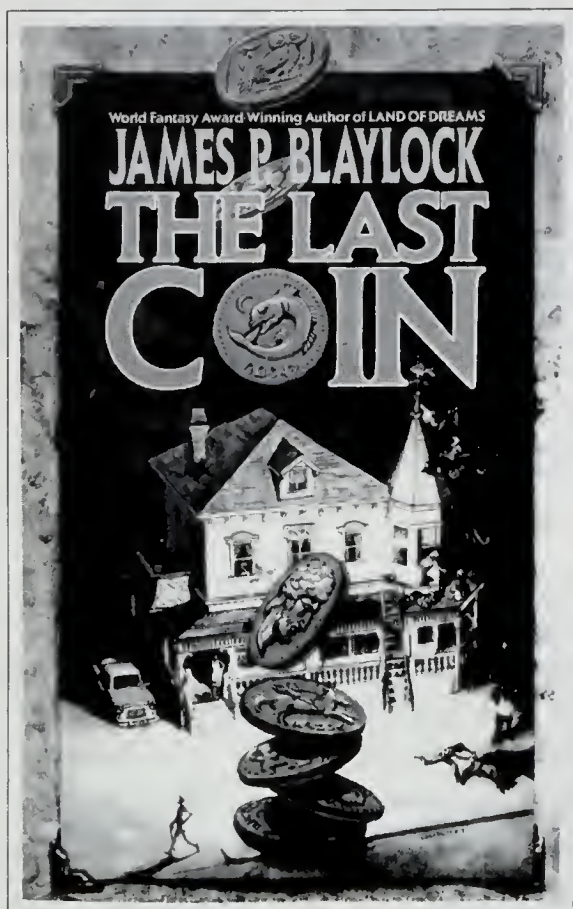


## New Limited Edition Kentucky Obsolete Book

Continuing the series of Wismer Project Obsolete Currency Books, the next Society of Paper Money Collectors (SPMC) publication is almost ready for release: *Kentucky Obsolete Notes & Scrip*.

Priced at \$29.50, the book will be issued only in a softbound edition. Inquiries may be directed to:

Mark Anderson  
SPMC Treasurer  
400 Court Street, #1  
Brooklyn, NY 11231



## Numismatics in Fiction ~ A Trial List

P. P. Gaspar and C. M. Carlisle

*Editor's Note: Within a few days of each other, the compilation presented here and two new installments of Forrest Daniel's A Checklist of Numismatic Fiction (A Continuing Shelf List) both arrived, the latter including contributions from John Davenport. With the approval of the parties concerned, the 26 Daniel entries not recorded by Gaspar and Carlisle have been incorporated into the following list. They are identified by double daggers (++) preceding the numerical designation.*

What follows is a highly tentative attempt to survey one of the more frivolous yet enjoyable areas in numismatic literature: fictional works in which numismatics, or at least numismatic objects, play a role. Nearly two decades ago, in the September 26, 1979 issue of *Coin World* (p. 58), Bernard A. Drew published an article entitled "Sleuths stalk coins in numismatic mysteries."

Drew wrote that: "Appearing primarily in mystery fiction, coins and currency have provided the props for hundreds of novels, short stories, pulp fiction novelettes, even comic book adventures." After giving some examples, included in the trial list below, Drew ended his compilation with the encouraging words: "Numismatic fiction is everywhere. It takes only a brief search of a library or bookstore shelves to find titles involving various aspects of coinage and collecting. They're all good for an evening's reading in a comfortable armchair."

Hooray, Mr. Drew! We certainly agree that fictional works including coins, medals, paper money and collecting, plus related activities such as counterfeiting, treasure hunting, and archaeology, offer a great deal of pleasure to numismatists in general and to numismatic bibliophiles in particular. Our experience during the past ten years, however, leads us to gently disagree with Mr. Drew on the ease with which these works can be found. Perhaps we have not given it enough time or effort, or perhaps one has been unlucky, but the modest number of titles that we can add to the Drew corpus (roughly quadrupling his total) makes it clear that your help is needed. We are a long way from the hundreds of titles mentioned by Drew. Please, numismatic book lovers, send us additional entries for the list. We would be particularly interested in hearing from fellow enthusiasts for this form of numismatic literature, and would be grateful to learn of other attempts to list the fictional works in which some aspects of numismatics are prominent.

There is also a question that you may wish to consider: Why does numismatics seem to play a smaller role in fiction than does philately? Is it that knowledge of coins is more difficult to acquire by writers than are the



essentials of stamp-collecting? Or do coins touch on such primeval instincts that their mere mention is thought to be sufficient to elicit the responses desired by authors no matter how poorly informed? In the works listed below, few authors besides Ernest Bramah, an expert on English copper coins, have used numismatics as an integral and effective part of their writing.

Thank you in advance for your assistance! In the following list, an asterisk (\*) precedes the entries taken from Drew. A dagger (†) precedes titles first noted in Forrest Daniel's "A checklist of numismatic fiction," *The Asylum*, Summer, 1991, pp. 21-24 (25 items). [See *Editor's Note* at the beginning of this article for an explanation of the double daggers (††) preceding some listings]. An incomplete bibliographical citation indicates that the original work has not been in our hands. Your contributions will be acknowledged immediately and incorporated in future expanded bibliographies. Our special thanks to Bernard A. Drew for his pioneering effort. We have tried without success to reach him to express our appreciation and to ask him to participate in what is, after all, but an expanded version of his 1979 paper.

Many thanks to the following individuals who have generously contributed titles and information to our trial list: Robert Birchard, Walter Bloom, Gerald J. Brauer, Dan Carr, David E. Clarke, Glen Cook, Stephen Davies, James Davis, Kirk Davis, Harry Dodsworth, Wayne Homren, Ruth W. Jeffries, F. J. Jungen, George F. Kolbe, Eric Kondratieff, Ken Leonard, Robert Lopresti, Harrington E. Manville, Michael E. Marotta, Sabine Moehler, Ernest J. Montgomery, Francis M. Nevins, Elizabeth Reicker, Trevor Robins, Mario Rups, Richard L. Rush, and Mark Zimmermann.

In the list below, the dates given are generally for the editions consulted, so the original publication date is usually not provided. This will be remedied in future editions.

1. Aiken, Joan, *Jane Fairfax*, St. Martin's Press, N. Y., 1991.

Jane begs Frank not to compromise her with obtrusive gifts, so he finds her objects of such minute size that they might be hidden in the finger of a glove or the folds of a handkerchief. These include a pea-sized silk purse containing Maundy money.

2. Alexander, Gary, *Unfunny Money*, Walker and Company, N. Y., 1989.

A mythical Southeast Asian country is flooded with counterfeits when a full-color photocopier arrives in a land where the money is printed on plain bond paper.

3. Anthony, Piers, *Heaven Cent*, Avon Books, N. Y., 1988.

A nine-year old prince embarks on a quest to find a missing sorcerer who left behind a message mentioning the Heaven Cent. Besides being one of numerous puns, this is an electroplated copper disk that can send whomever invokes its magic to where he or she is most needed.

4. Aristophanes, *The Wasps*, translated by Alan H. Sommerstein, Aris & Phillips, Ltd., Warminster, 1983.

In this 422 BC comedy we learn that the Greeks carried small change in their mouths: "...he and I got a drachma between us, and he went and got it changed in the fish market. Then he put three mullet scales in my hand, and I popped them in my mouth, because I thought I'd been given obols." There is a similar line in *The Birds* indicating the dangers of this: "On my back, with my mouth open, I swallowed an obol." An obol was about one fourth the size of a silver dime.

- \*5. Ball, Brian, *Montenegrin Gold*, Walker and Company, N. Y., 1978.

The 5,000 gold sovereigns dropped by parachute to Yugoslav partisans during World War II act as a magnet for intrigue 30 years later.

6. Bannister, William, *Counterfeit Death*, Lancer Books, N. Y., 1968.

'Bad News' Bert Bascom, a small-time Hollywood press agent, is forced to spend millions of dollars worth of counterfeit pesos in Mexico to buy art works and antiquities. He recognizes the banknotes as being bogus because they are printed too well.

7. Barnes, Margaret Campbell and Elzna, Hebe, *Lady on the Coin*, Macrea Smith Company, Philadelphia, 1963.

A fictional account of the life of Frances Stuart, Duchess of Richmond, whose face, according to Samuel Pepys, could be recognized on the figure of Britannia that graces the reverse of the Charles II copper. She gives Jan Roettiers a sitting for the new coins, said to substantiate England's claim to dominion of the seas. There is even numismatic gossip like the unpopularity of the choice of Roettiers over Thomas Simon, and resentment by the public of the choice of the Frenchman Blondeau to supervise the new mill-and-screw coining method. The Master of the Mint, Henry Slingsby, shows Frances the rolling of bars into strip, the blanking presses, weighing machines, edge-marking apparatus, and the drying of blanched coins, and the Maundy money. The author has placed Frances Stuart's image as Britannia on the reverse of all the coins, including gold and silver. Despite these amusing and imaginary details, numismatics plays a small role.

8. Barr, Amelia E., *The Black Shilling*, Dodd, Mead, & Company, N. Y., 1903.

A romance novel in which innocence and true love survive Cotton Mather's witchcraft hysteria in 1690s Boston. We are told that a "black shilling" is the piece of money given to a witch by the devil to seal their contract.

9. Barr, Robert, *The Triumphs of Eugène Valmont*, Hurst & Blackett, Ltd., London, 1906; Dover Publications, Inc., Mineola, N. Y., 1985.

Eugène Valmont, transmuted from French government detective to London private investigator is a bit smug for present tastes. In "Lord Chizelrig's Missing Fortune" he finds gold sovereigns beaten into gold leaf to conceal them under wallpaper. In another case (chapters XIV - XVII) the depositing of large quantities of silver coin raise the suspicion of counterfeiting pieces of full weight and purity to take advantage of the low price of silver. These turn out to be genuine, but the proceeds of a bizarre fraud.

\*10. Barrett, Marianne, "Today and You," *Love Story Magazine*, Street and Smith, January 10, 1942, pp. 24-33.

Grandfathers of a young woman and her suitor were rival collectors whose last battle was over a Greek coin minted in the year 372 B.C. to honor the mighty warrior Pelopidas. Rivalry over the long missing coin extends to the younger generation, but love wins out.

11. Barth, Richard, *One Dollar Death*, The Dial Press, N. Y., 1982.

Margaret Binton, seventy-year-old amateur sleuth, sets out with her friends to trap the man who stabbed a friend of hers at Sotheby's, where she had gone to have a coin appraised.

12. Bechtel, John, *The Harrison Road Mystery*, Wm. B. Erdmans Publishing Co., Grand Rapids, Mi., 1941, 3rd printing Oct., 1946.

Apart from being a Christian tract, this is the story of a 12-year-old girl detective in just pre-World War II Hong Kong who uncovers a gang of counterfeiters who forge everything from bus tickets to the 1937-39 nickel ten-cent pieces. The fake ten-cent pieces are nonmagnetic!

\*13. Benchley, Peter, *The Deep*, Doubleday, N. Y., 1976, Bantam Books, N. Y., 1977.

A young couple honeymooning in Bermuda dive off a reef in search of a ship wreck and its sunken loot. The author of *Jaws* provides a good adventure story, but the treasure is mostly colonial Spanish jewelry and World War II dope. The date on a piece of eight does, however, help to identify the treasure ship.

††14. Bentley, Phyllis, *Forgery!*, Doubleday & Company, Inc., 1968.

While lost on the moors of Yorkshire in 1769, Dick Wade, 14-year-old son of a weaver, stumbles onto a nest of coin clippers and forgers. He helps the mint clear the innocent and bring the guilty to justice. Juvenile.

15. Birmingham, George A., *Spanish Gold*, Methuen, London, 1908 (29th edition, 1926!).

Spanish doubloons from an 18th century shipwreck on a tiny island on the west of Ireland serve as a metaphor for greed, determination and character as a talkative Irish Protestant curate is transformed from the ridiculous to the heroic in the course of the treasure hunt.

†16. Black, Lionel, *The Penny Murders*, William Collins Sons & Co., London, 1979; large print edition, F. A. Thorpe, Leicester, 1980.

A real numismatic novel, in which the fabulously rare pennies of 1933 and 1954, and an Edward VIII brass threepence are the motives involved in the death of a wealthy collector. Other collectors, dealers and a Beirut counterfeiter play important roles in this well-written book.

17. Blackmur, L. L., *The Circle of Mynnia*, St. Martin's Press, N. Y., 1991.

A hoard of gold coins of Croesus with the head of Mynnia, a woman who was said to have baked for the Lydian king, are the motive for ill-behavior among a crowd of society archaeologists. The coin on the dust jacket is a gold tetradrachm of Syracuse.



18. Blaylock, James P., *The Last Coin*, Ace Books, N. Y., 1988.

In a strange modern fantasy, Judas's thirty pieces of silver are revealed to be the timeless keys to limitless power and the objects of a struggle through the ages against evil. In 1980s Southern California they are thrust upon an unsuspecting and very ordinary man.

19. Block, Lawrence, *The Burglar Who Studied Spinoza*, Pocket Books, N. Y., 1982.

Bernie is a Greenwich Village bookseller by day, and a burglar by night. With his dog-groomer friend, Carolyn, he becomes involved in a robbery within a robbery, centered around a 1913 liberty head nickel.

20. Block, Lawrence, *The Burglar Who Traded Ted Williams*, Onyx/Penguin Books USA, 1995.

In a rather dreary repeat of nearly the same plot, Bernie steals valuables, including coins, to take a cut of the insurance. The title refers to baseball cards.

21. Bramah, Ernest, "The Coin of Dionysius," *Max Carrados*, Methuen, London, 1914, pp. 1-24; reprinted by Hyperion Press, Westport, Ct., 1975; this short story is included in Ernest Bramah, *Best Max Carrados Detective Stories*, E. F. Bleiler, ed., Dover, N. Y., 1972, pp. 1-14.

Max Carrados, a blind art connoisseur, turns detective in helping an old friend, private investigator Carlyle, uncover the replacement of a tetradrachm by Kimon in a famous collection with a freshly made forgery.

22. Bramah, Ernest, "The Game Played in the Dark," *Max Carrados*, Methuen, London, 1914, pp. 262-296; reprinted by Hyperion Press, Westport, Ct., 1975.

A false report of the theft of Greek coins from the British Museum enmeshes the blind British detective Max Carrados in European intrigue.

23. Bramah, Ernest, "The Mystery of the Vanished Petition Crown," *Best Max Carrados Detective Stories*; E. F. Bleiler, ed., Dover, N. Y., 1972, pp. 40-62; taken by Bleiler from *Max Carrados Mysteries*, Hodder and Stoughton, London, 1927.

A woman reporter is suspected of stealing a Petition Crown at an auction sale, leaving a common Charles II crown in its place. Max Carrados flushes out the wealthy dilettante who was responsible for the switch. Was it life imitating art when a Rawlins Oxford crown was replaced by an electrotype copy at the public viewing of the Archbishop Sharp collection at Glendining's on October 4, 1977?

24. Bramah, Ernest, "The Dead March," *The Specimen Case*, George H. Doran Co., N. Y., 1925, pp. 53-60.

On an early morning stroll along a deserted beach near an ancient grave site, the narrator finds a Roman denarius and then encounters the spirit of a legionary who describes a battle in which the Durotriges were vanquished.

25. Bramah, Ernest, "The Great Hockington Find," *The Specimen Case*, George H. Doran Co., N. Y., 1925, pp. 158-175.

A London firm of pawnbrokers is sent an 8th century Mercian penny of Beornwulf (worth 10 pounds *ca.* 1907) as a sample of a large hoard. A partner hot-foots it down to the village where the coins were found and is shown four more Mercian pennies by the charming young sister of the finder. After the whole hoard is viewed by candlelight, 900 pounds in gold sovereigns changes hands, and the Londoner is certain that he succeeded in cheating the finders. But all the rest of the coins are crude forgeries, and no appeal to the police can be made, because the transaction was clearly intended to violate the law of treasure trove.

26. Bramah, Ernest, "The Goose and the Golden Egg," *The Specimen Case*, George H. Doran Co., N. Y., 1925, pp. 186-197.

A wonderful scam by two English gamblers in France consists of attaching two halves of different Bank of England five-pound notes and having one of the duo turn in the hybrid note for francs at a money-changer's shop. An hour later the partner visits the shop and requests to buy a five-pound note, and, on being offered the joined halves, refuses it. "But the note is good - two halves joined together!" protests the proprietor. "Ah, but the numbers don't match, so it can't be exchanged!" points out the rogue, who then describes the long process required to redeem it in London, at the Bank. Out of the goodness of his heart, the rogue takes the note off the hands of the money-changer at half its face value. So a profit of about two pounds is made on each exchange cycle. Eventually the deception ends with six months in jail.

27. Brooks, Walter R., *To and Again*, Alfred A. Knopf, N. Y., 1929 (?).

In the first of the delightful books about Freddy the talking pig, and his animal friends, Farmer Bean's farm is saved by the discovery that the ants' ballroom really does have a golden floor - consisting of twenty dollar gold pieces.

28. Burnaby, Nigel, *Two Deaths for a Penny*, Ward, Lock & Co., London and Melbourne, 1935.

It is the lack of a penny that leads to mischief, so this would be a 'false friend' but for the circumstance that the serial numbers of the notes issued by his bank to a murdered man-about-town are important clues. These numbers are given and do correspond to branch (rather than London) issues of the Bank of England. Can one believe, however, that in the 1930s banks recorded the serial number of each note handed out?

29. Campbell, Robert, *Plugged Nickel*, Pocket Books, N. Y., 1988.

Jake Hatch, railroad detective, finds a metallurgical sample formed in the shape of a nickel, but is distracted from recognizing this clue in a grisly double murder by the strange symbols incised on its surface.

+30. Chandler, Raymond, "No Crime in the Mountains," *Killer in the Rain*, Ballantine Books, 1972. (This 61 page novella first appeared in *Detective Story Magazine*, Street and Smith, copyright 1941.)

A private detective is asked to investigate the replacement of a wad of real money by counterfeits. The only numismatic interest is the description: "...the bill was beautiful work. The paper, in particular, was just about perfect. But under a comparison microscope there were small differences of registration."

31. Chandler, Raymond, *The High Window*, 1942; reprinted, Balantine Books, N. Y., 1971.

Hardboiled detective Phillip Marlowe investigates the theft of a Brasher Doubloon. The numismatic information is largely incorrect, but an accurate up-to-date (1942) description is given of counterfeiting by centrifugal casting.

32. Chesterton, Gilbert K., "The Head of Caesar" in *The Wisdom of Father Brown*, John Lane Co., N. Y., 1915, pp. 144 to 170.

Redhead Christabel Carstairs steals a Roman bronze from her brother's collection to present to her boyfriend, whose profile resembles that of the emperor on the coin.

- †33. Coles, Manning, *Not Negotiable*, Doubleday & Co., 1949; Berkley Publishing Corp., N. Y., 1964 (paperback).

Only marginally numismatic, this is the just-postwar story of how two bumbling detectives round up a ring of bogus currency distributors who are passing the products of the Sachsenhausen concentration camp counterfeit factory. One of the gang worked for the Nazis in Milan, using the "slush" to acquire art works and other valuables for Himmler. The story is silly, but there are charming descriptions of late 40s Brussels and Paris.

34. Cook, Glen, *Cold Copper Tears*, New American Library, Signet Books, NAL Penguin, Inc., N. Y., 1988.

A fantasy novel in which centuries-old coins are clues for a hard-boiled detective connecting grisly murders with an ancient cult. In Karenta anyone can coin money on blanks obtained from the royal mint by exchanging fine metal for alloy, weight for weight. "There's more state profit in not having to make dies and pay workmen to do the striking." The private coins are identified in the library of the Royal Assay Office from the reeding on the edge and the design, including an eight-legged monster.

35. Creasy, John, *Follow the Toff*, Lancer Books, N. Y., 1961; originally published by Walker and Company.

The recruiting of artists to engrave plates for counterfeit notes, their production and distribution figure at the fringes of this rather mechanically written mystery. The period quality of the Paris and London locale has a certain appeal.

- ††36. Dalton, Kit, *Buckskin: Trick Shooter*, Leisure Books, 1992/1996.

Counterfeit \$10 bills appear in Kansas about the time Colonel Judson Hardesty's Wild West Show hits town. Lee "Buckskin" Morgan believes someone in the show is pushing the bills; he joins the show as assistant to sharpshooter Kitty Carson to expose the outlaw. Adult western series.

37. Davis, Lindsey, *Silver Pigs*, Crown Publishers, N. Y., 1989; originally published in Great Britain by Sidgwick & Jackson, Ltd.

In ca. 66 AD a Roman private investigator searches for the killer of a senator's daughter and the ring that stole ingots of argenteiferous lead on their way from Britain to the mint.



38. Davis, Lindsey, *The Iron Hand of Mars*, Ballantine Books, N. Y., 1994; originally published in Great Britain by Random Century Group Ltd in 1992 and in the U. S. by Crown Publishers, Inc. in 1993.

Finding a silver coin in 71 AD with the special mint mark used by P. Quinctilius Varus on his soldiers pay identifies a battlefield where Roman legions were slaughtered by German tribes.

††39. Davis, Richard Harding, "The Trailer For Room No. 8," in *Van Bibber and Others*, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1917.

The "trailer" was a pre-teen boy who screened the suckers for a green goods operator; in this case he befriends a country man and is offered a change of life.

40. Dickinson, Peter, *The Glass-Sided Ants' Nest*, Harper & Row, N. Y. and Evanston, 1968.

The chief of a tribe of New Guinea aborigines transplanted to London was precipitated by a curious two-headed penny with the bust of Edward VII on one side and George V on the other. An interesting fact is that a pint of beer cost two shillings and twopence in 1968, roughly 6% the 1991 price.

††41. Dixon, Franklin W., *The Secret of the Old Mill*, Grosset & Dunlap, 1927/1990.

When their friend is stuck with a phoney \$20 bill, the Hardy Boys learn the characteristics of counterfeit bills and track down the counterfeiters. Juvenile.

\*42. Dixon, Franklin W., *The Melted Coins*, Grosset & Dunlap, N. Y., 1944.

A Hardy Boys adventure replete with unlikely coin collectors, buried treasure including pine tree shillings and Somer Island hog money, counterfeits made from stolen rare coins, and a Mexican commemorative gold piece of 1725.

43. Doyle, Sir Arthur Conan, "The Adventure of the Engineer's Thumb," *Strand Magazine*, March, 1892; reprinted in *The Annotated Sherlock Holmes*, William S. Baring-Gould, editor, Clarkson N. Potter, Inc., New York, 2nd ed., 1972, vol. II, pp. 209-224.

An engineer hired by a ring of counterfeiters to examine a hydraulic press has his thumb cut off. The presence of large amounts of nickel and tin suggests that silver coins were being forged in an unusual alloy.

44. Doyle, Sir Arthur Conan, "The Adventure of the Three Garridebs," *Strand Magazine*, Jan., 1925; reprinted in *The Annotated Sherlock Holmes*, cited above, vol. II, pp. 643-655.

Nathan Garrideb collects coins and many other things. He dreams of founding a great museum, and is thus easily deceived by a killer looking for the counterfeiting den of his victim.

45. Doyle, Sir Arthur Conan, "The Musgrave Ritual," *The Complete Sherlock Holmes*, vol. 1, Doubleday & Co., Garden City, N. Y., 1930, pp. 386-397.

"Rusty" coins of Charles I helped fix the date of the ritual whose secret was unlocked after more than two centuries by the great detective.

46. Dumersan, T. M., *Numismatique du Voyage du Jeune Anarchis, ou Médailles des Beaux Temps de la Grèce*, C. P. Landon, Paris, 1818.

In 1787 Abbé Barthélmy published an imaginary travelogue recounting the search for knowledge through the ancient world that the Syrian philosopher Anarchis made *ca.* 600 BC. This is Dumarsan's account of the coins Anarchis might have encountered in his "travels."

47. Eliot, George (pseudonym of Mary Ann Evans), *Silas Marner*, Penguin Classics, London, 1985.

Silas Marner spent sixpences and shillings, hoarded crowns and halfcrowns, but liked guineas best.

48. Engstrom, J. Eric, *Coins in Shakespeare, A Numismatic Guide*, Dartmouth College Museum Publications, Hanover, New Hampshire, 1964.

A charming non-fiction work that illustrates the coins mentioned by Shakespeare, provides some historical background on the coinage, and gives the quotations.

††49. Evans, Tabor, *Longarm and Santa Anna's Gold*, Jove Books, 1983.

When Santa Anna was defeated at San Jacinto his war chest of gold coins was buried. After two Treasury agents are murdered, U. S. Deputy Marshall Custis Long is assigned to find the 20-peso coins, dated 1836 and minted to commemorate Santa Anna's victory over the Texans, before the Texas Rangers can recover the treasure. Adult western series.

††50. Evans, Tabor, *Longarm and the Counterfeit Corpse*, Jove Books, 1996.

Plates for new, more-difficult-to-counterfeit \$100 bills arrive at the "Denver mint" with instructions that the old plates and ink be destroyed. One of the men charged with destroying the plates is murdered and the other disappears with a set of old plates. U. S. Deputy Marshall Custis Long and the counterfeiter's girl friend join in the pursuit of Nathan Cox. Adult western series.

51. Fenisong, Ruth, *Death is a Gold Coin*, Popular Library, N. Y., 1945.

A Roman coin is the key to the intrigue behind the murder of the dog of an employee, and then the employee herself, of a glamorous socialite who yearned to leave her husband for the man she always loved.

52. Ferrars, Elizabeth (pseudonym of Morna Doris Brown), *Unreasonable Doubt*, Collins Crime Club, London, 1986, reprint of the 1958 first edition.

An elderly miser's collection of Greek coins leads to murder in Monte Carlo and envelops an English village in intrigue. A Syracusan decadrachm turned into jewelry by a resentful wife is both a motive and a clue.

53. Finney, Jack, *The Woodrow Wilson Dime*, Simon and Schuster, N. Y., 1968; reprinted in the collection *3 by Finney*, Simon and Schuster, N. Y., 1987.

A man travels back and forth between alternate universes (and wives) by paying for his newspaper with either Franklin Roosevelt or Woodrow Wilson dimes, Ulysses Grant quarters and George C. Coopernagel nickels! A shorter version was published as "The Other Wife" in the *Saturday Evening Post* in 1960 and reprinted under the intended original title "The Coin Collector" in *About Time*, Simon and Schuster, N.Y., 1986.

54. Fish, Robert L., *The Gold of Troy*, Berkley Books, N. Y., 1984; originally published by Doubleday & Company, N. Y., 1980.

The beautiful young director of the New York Metropolitan Museum of Art falls in love with an archaeologist from the Hermitage during their search for the Schliemann hoard of ancient gold artifacts, missing since 1945. Numismatics enters in the form of a Swedish counterfeiter who made all those great Bank of England notes during World War II and helped spirit the Schliemann treasure out of Germany.

55. Fleming, Ian, *Live and Let Die*, Signet, New American Library, N. Y., copyright 1954, but the 26th printing of this edition was published after 1964.

Rose nobles of Edward IV, 1510 double excellentes, 1574 ecús of Charles IX, and other contemporary gold coins from pirate Henry Morgan's treasure in Jamaica are being sold in New York to benefit a communist organization. A routine job for James Bond. At the time this book was written, these gold coins were valued at no more than \$60 each.

††56. Fletcher, Dirk, *Spur: Langtry Lass*, Leisure Books, 1995.

Plates for a new issue of \$20 notes are stolen from the registered mail at Langtry, Texas. Secret Service Agent Spur McCoy is sent to find the plates and prevent collapse of the economy. Treasury paper money expert M. J. (Marci) Philburton, Washington, D. C., is assigned to assist him. Adult western series.

††57. Fletcher, Dirk, *Spur: San Diego Slattern*, Leisure Books, 1996.

Evidence shows counterfeit \$20 bills printed from stolen government ink, paper and plates originated in San Diego; Secret Service Agent Spur McCoy is assigned to locate and capture the unknown printer. Add a range war and a murderous doctor. Adult western series.

††58. Fletcher, Dirk, *Spur: Missouri Mama*, Leisure Books, 1996.

Adult western series.

††59. Fletcher, Dirk, *Spur: San Francisco Strumpet*, Leisure Books, 1994.

Adult western series.

††60. Fletcher, Dirk, *Spur: Portland Pussycat*, Leisure Books, 1994.

Adult western series.

61. Fletcher, J. S., *Hardican's Hollow*, George H. Doran, N. Y., 1927.

The mystery of a far away treasure unfolds in "The Starving Crow" a desolate country inn: "Spanish doubloons...not one of them of a more recent date than 1593..." Some useful pre-WWI numismatic terminology: shiners = gold sovereigns, cracklers = white £5 notes.

62. Gash, Jonathan, *Gold by Gemini*, Dell Publishing Co., N. Y., 1982.

Lovejoy, a small-time antique dealer and big-time philanderer in East Anglia is a 'divvie'-he has a subconscious ability to divine genuine antiquities. Here he is after a hoard of Roman coins on the Isle of Man and gets into all kinds of trouble.

††63. Gardner, Erle Stanley, *The Case of the Irate Witness*, Pocket Books, 1953/1973.

Perry Mason solves a payroll theft using the serial numbers on the bills. Short story.



64. Gash, Jonathan, *The Great California Game*, St. Martin's Press, N. Y., 1991.

As part of a complicated scam, Lovejoy promises the American Numismatic Society to report a find of (modern counterfeit) early English hammered silver coins at Roanoke in order to depress the market and thus enable the ANS to buy a collection of genuine pieces at a favorable price.

65. Gash, Jonathan, *The Grace in Older Women*, Viking, N. Y. 1995.

Lovejoy commissions three types of counterfeit numismatic items for an auction of fake antiques: 1. A Bank of England white one-pound note, ca. 1800, serial number 2. 2. Gold ecus. 3. Copper halfpenny and farthing tokens and silver tokens.

66. Gentle, Mary, *A Hawk in Silver*, Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, N. Y., 1977; New American Library, 1986.

The elukoi are exiles on earth from the Otherworld kingdom of Faerie, and are pursued by their enemy, Tanaquil Seahawk. A young english girl is enmeshed in this struggle when she finds a silver coin carrying Tanaquil's face and an image of a hawk, and an emissary is sent to retrieve the coin.

67. Gibson, Walter, *The Man From U.N.C.L.E. The Coin of El Diablo Affair*, Wonder Books, N. Y., 1965.

Twice the size of a silver dollar, with "El Diablo Imp" surrounding the laureated profile bust of a modern filibuster, the coin was made of "a special amalgam." It activated a homing device that allowed El Diablo to locate its possessors.

68. Gifford, Thomas, *The Man From Lisbon*, McGraw-Hill, N. Y., 1977.

Called a novel, this is the story, with imaginary dialogue, of Artur Virgilio Alves Reis, who in the '20s persuaded Waterlow and Sons to print for him a batch of 500 escudo notes of the Bank of Portugal. This was perhaps the cleverest and most successful counterfeiting scheme of all time, and was discovered only when a pair of notes was found bearing the same serial numbers. The copyright for this book is owned by Murray Teigh Bloom who already covered this ground in his nonfiction work *The Man Who Stole Portugal*, Charles Scribner's Sons, N. Y., 1966.

- \*69. Goodrum, Charles A., *Carnage of the Realm*, Crown Publishers, N. Y., 1978.

A librarian in his 70s and two young friends set out to determine who murdered two members of the executive committee of a local coin club. Too many boar's head groats of Richard III figure among the clues.

70. Grafton Sue, *L is for Lawless*, Henry Holt, N. Y., 1995.

Signatures of Julian and Morgenthau and "Series 1934A" on a five-dollar bill are a tip-off that the proceeds of an old bank robbery are being spent.

71. Graves, Robert, *I, Claudius*, Vintage Books, Random House, N. Y., 1989 (copyright 1934 by Harrison Smith and Robert Haas, Inc.).

When his grandmother Livia dies, Claudius places in her mouth the coin she has chosen to pay the Ferryman: "It was a gold coin of a type I had never seen before, with Augustus's head and her own facing each other, on the obverse, and a triumphant chariot on the reverse." No such coin is known, but Graves may have based his imaginary aureus on a bronze piece from Pergamon whose obverse shows Livia and her son Tiberius facing each other.

\*72. Gruber, Frank, *Fort Starvation*, Rinehart and Co., N. Y., 1953 (first published in serial form in *Ranch Romances*, details not traced).

Gunslinger John Slater seeks revenge for the killing of his father in an indian massacre in Utah in 1861. Called a historical Western, coins play a plot role, including a batch of alloyed 1861 'Clark and Gruber' double eagles stolen on their way to Cripple Creek. The numismatic 'facts' are garbled and include the striking of gold and silver coins in Denver in 1870.

††73. Gruber, Frank, *The Spanish Prisoner*, E. P. Dutton & Co., Inc., 1969.

The Spanish prisoner'swindle was obvious, but the letter was accompanied by a Spanish gold castellano dated 1520. Former FBI agent Ryker investigates in Switzerland and Spain; he discovers the prisoner crucified on a Maltese cross. The gold treasure is real, the scam unusual.

††74. Hallahan, William H, *The Ross Forgery*, Avon Books, 1975.

For bibliomaniacs: the intimate details of methods employed in forging first editions for rich collectors. Plus, there's a one-page burglary of a coin collection.

75. Harrison, Ray, *Counterfeit of Murder*, Berkley Books, N. Y., 1989. St. Martin's Press, N. Y., 1986.

A London police constable infiltrates an 1890s ring of counterfeiters whose printing techniques and theft of genuine Bank of England paper are well described. Their 'perfect' fakes are recess-printed, however, the author apparently not being aware that typography was employed from 1851 to the end of the white note.

\*76. Hensley, Joe L., *A Killing in Gold*, Doubleday, Garden City, N. Y., 1978.

Lawyer Donald Roback, himself a connoisseur of early charter period paper money, discovers that a client has inherited a collection of private issue gold coins that are counterfeit. Hensley, a former judge and some-time dealer in U. S. currency knows his stuff!

77. Heyer, Georgette, *The Toll-Gate*, Ace Books, N. Y., 1954. First published by William Heinemann Ltd., 1954.

A large official shipment of the new gold coinage of 1818 is hijacked and cannot be spent because the sovereigns were not yet in general circulation and would hence be easily recognized as stolen property.

78. Hopkins, Kenneth, *Dead Against My Principles*, Holt, Rinehart & Winston, N. Y., 1962; Harper & Row, N. Y., 1984.

Professor of Numismatics, Gideon Manciple, takes time off from writing his paper on the Frankish coinage for the Sorbonne in order to assist his 81-year- old friend Dr. William Blow in solving the mystery surrounding the death of an Oxford classmate.

79. Hopkins, Kenneth, *She Died Because*, Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1957; Harper & Row, N. Y., 1984.

Another appearance of Gideon Manciple, Professor of Numismatics, helping his friend Dr. William Blow solve the murder of his housekeeper. No numismatics to speak of here.

80. Hopkins, Kenneth, *Body Blow*, Holt, Rinehart and Winston, N. Y., 1965.

When the large box sent to Dr. Blow was found to contain the body of a woman, rather

than the hundred volumes of books he expected, Blow enlists the aid of his friend Manciple, professor of numismatics, who is writing a treatise on Confederate currency. The two elderly gentlemen become involved in espionage, and a policeman is knocked out with Manciple's copy of Eckhel's *Doctrina Numorum*. A bit of numismatic lore is provided: in the 19th century a penny was sometimes called a 'brown'.

81. Hume, Fergus, *A Coin of Edward VII*, G. W. Dillingham Co., N. Y., 1903.

A half-sovereign set with jewels is a love-token given with the (incorrect) information that the 'w' in Edwardus is an error.

82. Innes, Michael (pseudonym of J. I. M. Stewart), *Appleby and the Ospreys*, Victor Gollancz, Ltd., London, 1986; Dodd Mead & Co., N. Y., 1987.

The late J. I. M. Stewart, a leading author of mysteries for more than half a century, often employed, quite expertly, *objets d'art* and books as pivotal plot items. Unfortunately, Stewart had little interest in coins. Here Lord Osprey forms a collection from miserly motives and knows nothing of his treasures that are the motive for his murder. When the most knowledgeable and charming of the three other numismatists in the book is made to speak about coins, she betrays her creator's utter lack of information about them.

83. Jablukov, Alexander, "Nomads" in *Future Boston*, David Alexander Smith, ed., Tom Doherty Associates, N. Y., 1994, pp. 30 - 52.

A homeless person begging for 53 cents so that he can buy a bottle of cabernet saves "wheat ear pennies" and was given a silver "standing Liberty dime" which he is saving for the time currency is worthless.

84. James, Henry, *The Portrait of a Lady*, Airmont Publishing Co., N. Y. 1966.

Isabel Archer's husband-to-be is described as having "suggested, fine gold coin as he was, no stamp nor emblem of the common mintage that provides for general circulation; he was the elegant complicated medal struck off for a special occasion." At our last view of him he is making a watercolor copy of a drawing of an antique coin.

85. Jeter, K. W., *Infernal Devices*, St. Martin's Press, N. Y., 1987.

Subtitled, appropriately, "A Mad Victorian Fantasy," much of the plot revolves around a coin, alternately described as a crown and a sovereign, on which the effigy on a Victoria young head-shield obverse is replaced by the grotesque goggle-eyed visage of "St. Monkfish." Discovering the secret of these strange coins lands the hero in a heap of mischief.

86. Johnson, Crockett, *Barnaby and Mr. O'Malley*, Holt, N. Y., 1944, 1945.

Mr. O'Malley, Barnaby's fairy godfather, gets the \$50,000 to run for Congress by tricking McSnoyd, the invisible leprechaun, out of his chest of (paper) money. There is a dispute, as to the authenticity of the bills, that hinges on whether Jefferson Davis had a mustache. Not otherwise numismatic, but fun.

87. Jones, Ellen, *The Fatal Crown*, Avon Books, N. Y., 1992.

A historical novel whose few direct numismatic references (*the* mint at Winchester and copper pennies) are garbled. It nevertheless presents a new perspective to those of us devoted to Norman coins with the delightful suggestion that Henry II was the fruit of a love affair between Stephen and his cousin, the Empress Matilda. The author consulted the *Gesta Stephani* and *Sex in History*, but apparently no numismatic reference.



88. Jones, Louis B., *Ordinary Money*, Viking Penguin, N. Y., 1990.

A novel about how a million perfect counterfeit \$20 bills change the nature of the misery in which two old friends and their families live. Even the "Mint" (the author's term) cannot distinguish the fake from the real, and only the discovery of two notes with the same serial numbers proved that counterfeiting had occurred. The technique for manufacture of these wonder notes is described, but not that for numbering them.

††89. Kartun, Derek, *The Courier*, St. Martin's Press, 1927.

When Bill Quinton is released from a French prison in 1940, he is asked to use his 3.5 litre Bentley drophead coupe to carry to safety the priceless collection of rare gold coins and the last stock of platinum in the Bank of France. His trip through France, Spain and Portugal is only a jump ahead of the invading Nazis and corrupt French police.

90. Keeler, Harry Stephen, *Sing Sing Nights*, 1927.

Not seen by us, but one of the stories told by three condemned men to their jailer has to do with "a bunch of good gusys and bad gusys trying to track down 'The Twelve Coins of Confucius'" (private communication from Francis M. Nevins).

91. Keeler, Harry Stephen, *John Jones' Dollar* in "Black Cat" magazine, 1915.

Short story not seen by us, but, according to Francis M. Nevins ("The New Republic," July 30, 1977, p. 25): "...one bright morning back in AD 2961 the investment by John Jones of a single dollar bill more than a millenium earlier suddenly brought the entire solar system to 'the true socialistic and democratic condition for which man had futilely hoped throughout the ages.'" Embedded in the novel *The Face of the Man from Saturn*, 1933.

\*92. Kelland, Clarence Budington, *Double Treasure*, 1946.

A body found on a beach with twenty-dollar gold pieces over the eyes, a 1699 treasure hoard, and Jane Teach, a pretty descendent of the infamous pirate, figure in this story, as does the unscrupulous Count Van Breslau who has the head of a monster and the body of a Greek god.

93. Kelley, Leo P., *The Coins of Murph*, Berkley Medallion Books, N. Y., 1971.

After the nuclear holocaust a Rand Corporation programmer is deified and all decisions must be made by tossing a coin. The high priests of Murph can't lose because their coins are two-headed or two-tailed. Losers are brutally decoined.

94. Kerruish, Jessie Douglas, *The Hull of Coins*, Geoffrey Bles, no date (ca. 1913).

Both philatelic and numismatic. In 1913 an elderly postmaster finally mails, 66 years late, a letter enclosing another that describes a treasure of pieces-of-eight and doubloons concealed in the hull of a ship sunk off the coast of Lancashire. The treasure hunters are thwarted when word gets out and villagers scramble after the coins, but another look at the letter reveals that it was franked with three copies of the Mauritius twopenny blue, "the most valuable stamp in the world!"

95. Knipe, Emilie Benson and Alden Arthur, *The Lucky Sixpence*, The Century Co., N. Y., 1913.

The gypsy fortune-tellers prophesy that the holed and bent sixpence "shall prove a lucky coin, though the half will be luckier than the whole" comes true when young Beatrice is sent to colonial America in 1776.

96. Kurland, Michael, *The Whenabouts of Burr*, Daw Books, Inc., New York, 1975.

When the appearance of Aaron Burr's signature on the Constitution reveals that the original document has been switched, Mexican gold coins with Burr's portrait are the first clue that an alternate time stream is involved.

97. Laumer, Keith, *Catastrophe Planet*, Berkley, N. Y., 1966.

The Earth was in shambles when Mel found the coin in a dead man's pocket...

- \*98. Lore, Phillips, *Who Killed the pie man?*, Playboy Press Paperbacks, N. Y., 1980.

Leo Roi, a millionaire dilettante attorney investigates the double murder of a young heiress and a middle-aged ex-professor who is said to have been the world's leading expert on ancient coins. The plot includes 12 ancient gold medallions, "the eagles of Caesar," worth millions. Given the publisher, it is hardly remarkable that the hero's chief interests are clothes, food and women, but it is surprising that the murder of the heiress is never explained. Perhaps the author found his story as tiresome as we did.

99. Machen, Arthur, *The Three Imposters*, John Baker, London 1964; Ballantine Books, N. Y., 1972.

This strange interwoven collection of horror tales was written in 1890. A gold coin of Tiberius of fabulous rarity, last seen in 1727, whose reverse portrays a fawn standing amidst reeds and flowing water and carries the legend "Victoria" plays an oblique but pivotal role. A young man steals the coin from a gang of monstrous ghouls and is murdered horribly in the first pages. There follows a lengthy flashback of his pursuit and his flinging away the coin.

- ††100. MacGrath, Harold, *The Million Dollar Mystery*, Grosset & Dunlap, 1915.

One episode of this novelization of a 1915 movie thriller (serial?) has a counterfeit theme. Perhaps the prototype for "The Perils of Pauline."

101. MacIntire, F. Gwynplaine, *The Woman Between the Worlds*, Dell Publishing, N. Y., 1994.

In this at-times macabre fantasy novel, an invisible woman from another world visits a London tattoo artist in 1898, requesting that her skin be given normal color, rendering her visible. She pays with 100 gold coins of all ages, some extra-terrestrial. These are taken to Mr. Spink, jun. at his coin shop on Piccadilly. Participating in the adventures are such real members of the Golden Dawn as William Crookes, Aleister Crowley, and William Butler Yeats.

102. Mayor, Archer, *The Skeleton's Knee*, Mysterious Press, N. Y., 1993.

The series and Federal Reserve Banks of issue for the \$100 bills in a hermit's treasure help solve a twenty year old mystery.

103. McCrumb, Sharyn, *MacPherson's Lament*, Balantine Books, N. Y., hard-cover 1992, mass market paperback, 1993.

When eight elderly daughters of Confederate veterans recruit a naive young lawyer into a real estate scam they give him a Confederate cent. One of the ladies wears a pendant made from a Stone Mountain commemorative half dollar.

104. McCulley, Johnston, *The Spider's Debt*, Hutchinson, London, 1930.

The theft of a rare coin minted in 66 A.D., "The Shekel of Shame" involves the super criminal "The Spider" and his gang. This rare book has not been read by us.

††105. McDonald, Gregory, *The Buck Passes Flynn*, Ballantine Books, 1981.

Every resident of two towns, one in Texas, the other in Massachusetts, receives anonymously \$100,000 in cash. Flynn is assigned to locate the source of the money before the nation's economy is destroyed by other such windfalls.

106. Melville, Herman, *Moby Dick*, Signet Classic, New York, 1955 (first published 1851).

In chapter 36 Captain Ahab nails a "Spanish ounce of gold," "a sixteen dollar piece," to the main-mast as a reward for finding the White Whale. In chapter 19 "The Doubloon" Ahab "seemed to be newly attracted to the strange figures and inscriptions stamped on it, ...to interpret for himself in some monomaniac way whatever significance might lurk in them." It was an Ecuador eight escudos of a type struck from 1838 into the 1850s.

†107. Melville, Herman, *The Confidence-Man*, Northwestern University Press, Evanston, 1984, chapter 45.

The description of the use of a "Counterfeit Detector" in a work of fiction written in 1855-6 is an interesting historical record: "...the Detector says, (about a three-dollar bill on the Vicksburgh Trust and Insurance Banking Company) among fifty other things, that, if a good bill, it must have, thickened here and there into the substance of the paper, little wavy spots of red; and it says it must have a kind of silky feel, being made by the lint of a red handkerchief stirred up in the paper-maker's vat - the paper being made to order for the company...But then it adds, that sign is not always to be relied on; for some good bills get so worn, the red marks get rubbed out."

108. Monfredo, Miriam Grace, *Through A Gold Eagle*, Berkley Prime Crime, N. Y., 1996.

Clever counterfeiting of private bank notes and clumsy forgeries of gold coins in the 1850s are "dirty tricks" used by British agents to destabilize our economy. Coin dealer Q. David Bowers acted as a consultant, but we still get the "printing" of coins and a lot of anachronistic *newspeak*.

109. Mulford, Clarence E., *Hopalong Cassidy Serves A Writ*, Doubleday, N. Y., 1941; reprinted Aeolian Press, N. Y., 1974.

Near the end of his life, Mulford told a reporter that the book "was filled with real facts. I even wrote the government mint for a description of a 500 dollar bill printed in 1883..." (private communication from Francis Nevins). Ten series 1882 \$500 gold certificates (Lincoln vignette) from a train robbery play an important role.

110. Muller, Marcia, *Pennies On A Dead Woman's Eyes*, The Mysterious Press, 1992.

Two 1943 steel cents found on a dead woman's eyes are a clue to her brutal murder. We are told that these coins were called "lead pennies," and some collectors considered them false.



111. Nevins, Francis M., *Corrupt and Ensnare*, G. P. Putnam's Sons, N. Y., 1978.

The serial numbers of the banknotes found in the late judge's closet prove that they were issued after his death and thus clear him from suspicion of a bribe. A questionable piece of numismatic information is that each Federal Reserve note is shipped to the district indicated on its face.

112. Oppenheimer, William, *El Dorado: Lament for the Gold Double Eagle*, Birch Brook Press, Delhi, N. Y., 1994.

Labeled a novella, this mawkish account of the formation of a collection of American coins and its ultimate theft sounds autobiographical. It is slathered with elementary numismatic lore, some of it incorrect.

\*113. Pace, Tom, *The Treasure Hunt*, Harper & Row, N. Y., 1970.

When skin-diving honeymooners find 1714-dated doubloons in Florida, greedy people begin doing nasty things.

114. Persico, Joseph E., *The Spider Web*, Crown Publishers, N. Y., 1979.

A fictional account of Operation Bernhard, the Nazi counterfeiting scheme.

115. Peters, Elizabeth, *Borrower of the Night*, Tom Doherty Associates, Inc., N. Y., 1990 (but copyright 1973).

A 1513 Würzburg 30-kreutzer piece and a 1523 "imperial florin with a head of Charles the Fifth" help identify an entombed corpse found during the search for a lost masterpiece by late gothic woodcarver Tilman Riemenschneider.

116. Peters, Ellis, *City of Gold and Shadows*, William Morrow & Co., N. Y., 1974 (published in Great Britain in 1973).

A schoolboy finds a Roman gold coin, an aureus of Commodus, on a field trip to the ruins of Roman baths on the Welsh border and is murdered to silence him about its source.

117. Peters, Ellis, *The Sanctuary Sparrow*, Mysterious Press, N. Y., 1995. First published by MacMillan London Ltd., London, 1983.

A Brother Cadfael story in which a silver penny of Edward the Confessor struck in Shrewsbury by the moneyer Godesbrand is the vital clue in the murder in 1140 of a goldsmith who hoarded it. From the aberrant spelling "Godesbrond" used by the author, we can identify the coin as of the "Pointed Helmet" type struck between 1053 and 1056, and infer that she viewed such a piece in the British Museum.

††118. Porter, William Sidney (O. Henry), "The Enchanted Profile," *The Complete Works of O. Henry*, Garden City Publishing Company Inc., 1937.

A snappy final sentence.

††119. Porter, William Sidney (O. Henry), "Shearing the Wolf," *The Complete Works of O. Henry*, Garden City Publishing Company Inc., 1937.

Confidence men Jeff Peters and Andy Tucker prevent a small town merchant from being swindled by a green goods operator.

††120. Porter, William Sidney (O. Henry), "Cherchez la Femme," *The Complete Works of O. Henry*, Garden City Publishing Company Inc., 1937.

All that glitters may be wallpaper.

††121. Porter, William Sidney (O. Henry), "Friends in San Rosario," *The Complete Works of O. Henry*, Garden City Publishing Company Inc., 1937.

What to do when a new bank examiner comes unexpectedly.

†122. Porter, William Sidney (O. Henry) "One Dollar's Worth," *Collected Stories of O. Henry*, Paul J. Horowitz, ed., Avenal Books, N. Y., 1979.

A very crude lead forgery of a silver dollar is made into a bullet, saving the life of a prosecutor, and freeing the counterfeiter.

†123. Porter, William Sidney (O. Henry), "The Tale of a Tainted Tenner," *Collected Stories of O. Henry*, Paul J. Horowitz, ed., Avenal Books, N. Y., 1979.

A talking ten dollar bill, series of 1901, with a bison and the busts of Lewis and Clark, tells its life story.

††124. Powell, Talmadge, *Mission: Impossible, The Money Explosion*, Western Publishing Company, Inc., 1970.

The newly democratic government of the Caribbean island nation of Esperanza is threatened by an opposition which plans to flood the country with millions of pesetas — perfect counterfeits supplied by a power unfriendly to the United States. The Impossible Mission Force intercepts the delivery through chases, disguises and an explosive conclusion.

125. Procter, Maurice, *The Pub Crawler*, Harper and Brothers, N. Y., 1958.

An innkeeper and well-known numismatist is murdered in his pub, and 74 gold coins stolen. They are melted, but the carefully kept records of the collection allow the ingot to be identified from its weight. No further numismatic content, but the characters are fully drawn and interesting.

126. Queen, Ellery (Frederic Dannay and Manfred B. Lee), *And on the Eighth Day*, Random House, N. Y., 1964.

The first crime in generations to occur in a utopian desert community involves fifty uncirculated 1872 CC silver dollars.

127. Queen, Ellery (Frederic Dannay and Manfred B. Lee), "The Adventure of the President's Half Disme," *Calendar of Crime*, Little, Brown, & Co., 1947; reprinted Howard Haycroft and John Beecroft, eds., *Ten Great Mysteries*, Doubleday & Company, Garden City, N. Y., 1959.

George Washington slept in a farmhouse and buried his sword and a 1791 half disme in gratitude to his hosts. A beautiful descendant cajoles Ellery Queen into finding the coin to pay off the mortgage on the family homestead.

128. Riley, Judith Markle, *Serpent Garden*, Viking, Penguin Books, N. Y., 1996.

A historical novel cum fantasy in which a book of prophecy is found together with a small

hoard of Merovingian coins of the reign of Dagobert. The origin of the Merovingian kings is traced back to the house of David via Jesus.

\*129. Ritchie, Jack, "The 23 Brown Paper Bags," *Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine*, Vol. 73, No. 5, May, 1979, pp. 43-55.

Fifteen years after the death of a skillful counterfeiter, his twenty dollar bills are involved in the death of a former policeman half way across the country.

††130. Rosenfeld, Arthur, *Dark Money*, Avon Books, 1992.

An "1849 Type One Dollar from the Charlotte Mint," four in existence, is part of the portfolio of a mutual fund based on rare coins. The coin is counterfeit, and philanthropist martial artist Nestor Dark is on the trail of the counterfeiter.

†131. Rudman, Norm and Sheldon, Ernie, *Dirty Money*, Paperback Library, N. Y., 1972.

Subtitled "the great American pornographic money crisis," this is the hilarious and mildly salacious story of a repressed BEP engraver who adds naughty embellishments to a master die for the five dollar bill.

132. Ryan, Jessica, *Clue of the Frightening Coin*, Mystery Novel Classic No. 79, Novel Selections, Inc., N. Y., 1945; an "abridgment" of *The Man Who Asked Why*.

A coin amulet wrought and halved as part of a Jewish engagement custom in Poland is part of a murder investigation by a loveable professor of Russian.

133. Sanders, Lawrence, *The Eighth Commandment*, G. P. Putnam's Sons, N. Y., 1986; Berkley Books, N. Y., 1987.

Mary Lou Bateson is a six-foot, attractive, but lonely single girl in New York who is tutored in numismatics by an old-time dealer, gets a job at an auction house, and becomes mixed up with the disappearance of a collection of ancient coins.

134. Secondari, John H., *Coins in the Fountain*, J. B. Lippincott Co., 1952; Permabooks (Doubleday), Garden City, N. Y., 1953.

Roman streetcleaners of the 1950's complain that only worthless coins are thrown into the Trevi fountain, but that before WWI drunken Englishmen threw gold sovereigns. "They no longer believe as they used to." One who does is an expatriate American writer whose daily gift is a silver quarter. Now, very ill, he yearns to continue making his offering. Eventually the fountain receives in his memory a ten-dollar gold piece found among his effects.

135. Simpson, A. Carson, "Numismatics in the Canon. Part i: Full Thirty Thousand Marks of English Coin. Part ii: A Very Treasury of Coin of Divers Realms. Part iii. Small Titles and Orders." *Simpson's Sherlockian Studies*, privately printed, Philadelphia, 1957, vol. 5; 1958, vol. 6; 1959, vol. 7.

A description with historical background of all the coins mentioned in the Sherlock Holmes detective stories and references to where they appear. Since Conan Doyle was not as interested in coins as Mr. Simpson, the citations are of greater interest to passionate Sherlockians than to numismatic bibliophiles.



136. Stark, Richard, *The Rare Coin Score*, Fawcett Publications, Greenwich, 1967.

A professional thief is recruited by the girlfriend of a small-time coin dealer to participate in the robbery of a coin show security room.

137. Steele, Wilbur Daniel, *The Way to the Gold*, Doubleday & Co., Garden City, N. Y., 1955.

Before he dies, a grizzled old prisoner tells his young cellmate where he hid his biggest haul, 10,000 freshly minted gold eagles. Their glint and feel become an obsession that makes this novel an urban "Treasure of Sierra Madre."

††138. Stout, Rex, "Assault on a Brownstone," novella in *Death Times Three*, Bantam Books, 1985, 1988.

Hattie Annis is murdered after she delivers a packet of counterfeit \$20 bills to Nero Wolfe. Wolfe and Archie Goodwin outwit the Secret Service to discover which of Hattie's lodgers is a murderer and counterfeiter.

\*139. Stout, Rex, "Counterfeit for Murder," *Homicide Trinity*, Viking, N. Y., 1961; first published in *The Saturday Evening Post* under the title "The Counterfeiter's Knife".

In this novelette, Nero Wolfe tracks down a murderer and a counterfeiter after a charming eccentric finds a package of phoney 20s hidden in her theatrical boarding house.

140. Thompson, Charles Miner, *The Nimble Dollar, With Other Stories*, Houghton, Mifflin, Boston, 1895.

A silver dollar dated 1804 is used to help discover who has been robbing the till of a village store. When the locals learn that an 1804 dollar is worth \$800, the coin's adventures take twists that illuminate human character as well as luring the thief.

141. Twain, Mark (Samuel Clemens), "The £1,000,000 Bank Note," *Century Magazine*, Jan., 1893; reprinted in *The £1,000,000 Bank Note and Other Stories*, C. L. Webster, N. Y., 1893.

A delightful short story in which a young man is loaned a million pound bank note, "one of two ever printed by the Bank of England," as part of a bet between two wealthy brothers, one of whom thinks that the young man will starve, while the other thinks that he will thrive without spending a penny from the note.

142. Valentinetti, Joseph, *Glint*, St. Martin's Press, N. Y., 1995.

The casual theft of a 1964-D Peace Dollar by a used car salesman who doesn't know that it is a fabulous rarity leads to three murders by the henchman of a wealthy collector.

143. Veach, William N., *The Gold Frog (Riddle)*, self-published, Vienna, Va., 1991.

Steve chases a gold frog carrying a lost diamond by a Metrorail platform in Washington. Steve dreams that the frog tells him a riddle about a hidden treasure, wakes, and finds a rare

variety of a 1773 Virginia halfpenny. Is the coin part of the treasure, or a clue to the riddle?

144. Wallace, Edgar, *The Fourth Plague*, The Crime Club, Inc., Doubleday Doran, N. Y., 1930.

A golden medallion of Saint Anthony, hand-engraved by Leonardo in 1387 and set with small diamonds, plays an important role.

145. Weimer, David, *The Sicilian Hoard*, Colossus Press, Summit, N. J., 1996.

An American professor investigates a new hoard of 5th century BC silver coins. At Syracuse he finds the remains of a previously unknown engraver who died with the hoard and who made the dies for some of its most spectacular pieces.

146. Wells, Helen, *The Clue of the Gold Coin*, Grosset & Dunlap, N. Y. 1958.

Stewardess Vicki Barr is on the flight that takes a collection of gold coins from a New York numismatic museum to Tampa for display during the Gasparilla Pirate Festival. The coins disappear, but Vicki thwarts the thieves when she spots one of the coins in a jeweller's shop in Havana.

147. Werfel, Franz (translated by Moray Firth), *Embezzled Heaven*, Viking Press, N. Y., 1940.

The dashed life-long hopes of an elderly cook are revived when she finds a small silver coin on the steps of a church, falls and loses it, and recovers to read the announcement of a pilgrimage to Rome. "God had thrown down a coin in front of her..." she believes, and it leads her to her earthly redeemer.

148. West, Jerry, *The Happy Hollisters and the Secret of the Lucky Coins*, Doubleday & Company, Inc., Garden City, N. Y., 1962.

When one of the Hollister children is given an 1817 large cent, all five become interested in coin collecting. When a tree is blown over, they find an oak tree shilling with the word "treasure" scratched on it. This leads to several adventures featuring rare American coins.

††149. Williams, Alan, *The Tale of the Lazy Dog*, Simon and Schuster, 1970.

Periodically, to suppress the black market in Indo-China, the American Army made shipments of U. S. currency back to the States. This is a successful plan to highjack a shipment of more than a million dollars.

††150. Wilson, Karen Ann, *Copy Cat Crimes*, New York: Berkley Prime Crime, 1995.

A basket containing three kittens and \$300 in counterfeit currency is left on the doorstep of a veterinary clinic. The vet and his technician Samantha Holt investigate.

151. Winslow, Pauline Glen, *Copper Gold*, St. Martin's Press, N. Y., 1978.

Scotland Yard Superintendent Merle Capricorn tries to prove that his friend and assistant, Inspector Copper, is innocent of murdering the woman he loved. The couple are suspected of involvement in a counterfeiting ring circulating debased Krugerrands. The book starts with some garbled numismatic etymology.

\*152. Wyatt, George, *The Case of the Counterfeit Coin*, Whitman Publishing Co., Racine, Wi., 1960.

In a charming juvenile adventure with more numismatic content than most of the works cited here, Brains Benton and his sidekick Jimmy Carson track down the makers of false ancient Greek and Roman coins. The dies are hand-engraved by a surly dealer.

153. Wynne, Anthony, *The Case of the Gold Coins*, J. B. Lippincott Co., Philadelphia and London, 1934.

Dr. Eustace Hailey of Harley Street likes to help Scotland Yard. In this well-crafted novel, shiny and no longer used gold sovereigns show up near three bodies and are more than clues.

154. Yourcenar, Marguerite, *A Coin in Nine Hands*, Farrar, Straus & Giroux, New York, 1982. Originally published in French, *Denier du Rêve*, Editions Bernard Grasset, 1934, revised edition, Librairie Plon, 1959, Editions Gallimard, 1971.

In this novel, a silver ten-lira piece of Victor Emmanuel, of the 1926-1930 issue with a biga reverse is passed hand-to-hand, linking episodes and characters, one of whom tries to assassinate Mussolini. In her 1959 afterward, the author tells us that the coin is the symbol of contact between human beings, each lost in his own passions and in his intrinsic solitude.

### *False Friends*

Promising titles without numismatic content (casual finds, not intended as a complete list), these exemplify the pitfalls of the search.

a. Bandy, Franklin, *The Money Murders*, Stein and Day, N. Y., 1985. First published by Stein and Day in 1972 (?).

An inside job at Consolidated Money Orders nets a half-million.

b. Brinton, Henry (pseudonym for Alex Fraser), *Coppers and Gold*, Macmillan, N. Y., 1958.

Since the coppers are policemen and the gold is bullion this is not numismatic, but it is a charming whodunit with an appealing teenage girl doing most of the detecting.

c. Carter, Youngman, *Mr. Campion's Farthing*, William Morrow & Co., N. Y., 1969.

An amusing thriller starring the mature Albert Campion, but a false friend indeed, based on a numismatic misconception. A Russian defector named Kopeck is given the pseudonym 'Farthing' on the belief that the kopeck was the smallest unit in the Russian monetary system. This book does, however, qualify as philatelic fiction, since one of the characters is a disreputable private investigator with a passion for forgeries of rare stamps.

d. Clifford, Francis, *The Other Side of the Coin*, Signet Books, The New American Library, N. Y., 1966.

Other than the intriguing title, the closest that this story of a small-time bank robbery, an inside job that torments the robber more than the bank, comes to numismatics is to record how far money went in the 1960s.



\*e. Cudahy, Shiela, *The Trojan Gold*, Harper & Row, New York, 1979.

A Russian artist flees to the United States and is tailed by the KGB because of his connection with aerospace secrets. He has a key to the hiding place of Schliemann's trove of Trojan gold artifacts that disappeared from Berlin during World War II. There are no coins among the treasure.

e. Freeman, R. Austin, *The Uttermost Farthing*, John C. Winston, Philadelphia, 1914; published in Britain as *A Savant's Vendetta*, Pearson, 1920.

The title is a 19th century cliché from the biblical quotation: (Matt. v. 26) "Thou shalt by no means come out thence, til thou hast payd the vttermost farthing." The book is a novel and includes a private museum of anthropology, mummified heads, murder and revenge, but no coins.

f. Lawrence, T. E., *The Mint*.

In 1920 Lawrence reluctantly joined the Royal Air Force. These reminiscences of the training depot describe the processes of being "minted" into an airman.

g. Ober, Fred A., *Under the Cuban Flag, or the Cacique's Treasure*, Estes and Lauriat, Boston, 1897.

If PPG had asked CMC the meaning of "cacique" (one of the few English words from Taino) a 'false friend' would have been recognized immediately. In this charming juvenile adventure novel, a group of Americans is rewarded for helping the Cuban insurrection against Spain. They are given a treasure of diminutive and ancient gold ceremonial objects finely wrought by native craftsmen and hidden from the Spanish invaders.

h. Olson, Gene, *Sacramento Gold*, Macrea Smith Co., Philadelphia, 1961.

A well-written juvenile in which Clancy Hawkins, 15, runs away from home in a tiny California village, but finds he can't escape responsibility. Among his adventures is the thwarting of pirates who want to steal the gold, which is bullion and dust, from the river boat carrying it to San Francisco.

i. Payne, Laurence, *Dead for a Ducat*, Doubleday & Co., Garden City, N. Y., 1986.

In this London thriller, a coin appears only in the title, derived from *Hamlet*.

j. Symons, Julian, *The Broken Penny*, Dolphin Books, Doubleday & Company, Garden City, N. Y., 1953.

The title refers to the shape of a country behind the iron curtain where British intelligence plans a revolution. There is no other connection with numismatics.

k. York, Jeremy, *Two for the Money*, Doubleday & Co., Garden City, N. Y., 1962.

Normally "money" in a title betokens a 'false friend' but the dustjacket appealed by carrying Humphry Paget's wonderful George VI obverse portrait. In the event, a cast of unpleasant rogues, a vapid busty heroine, and cardboard police disappointed mightily.

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